

Ship said carrying arms to Somalia

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Greek-registered vessel carrying a shipment of Serbian weaponry was reported by U.S. officials to be heading towards Somalia. The officials, who asked not to be identified, said the vessel is believed to be preparing to stop at the Kenyan port of Mombasa, perhaps Tuesday. According to the officials, international efforts have been made to persuade either the Greek or the Kenyan government to take steps to have the vessel inspected. The shipment of Serbian weapons would violate two United Nations embargoes — the ban on trading with Serbia and the prohibition on shipping arms to the Somalis. The Greeks and the Serbs have long been allies. The New York Times, which first reported the suspicious shipment in Tuesday's editions, said the weapons are believed to have been purchased from the Federal Directorate of Supply and Procurement, an arms export agency for Yugoslavia, which now embraces Serbia and Montenegro. The paper, quoting unnamed American officials, identified the ship as the Bana 1, although it was previously called the Maria. The officials told the paper that the vessel appeared to have changed its name in an effort to evade the trade embargo and deceive Western intelligence.

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5,000 Sudanese return home — UN

HARTOUM (R) — Over 5,000 Sudanese have returned to their homes after years of control by rebel forces, the official Sudanese News Agency (SUNA) reported Tuesday. SUNA said 5,000 had returned to the town of Atbara, a stronghold of the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) until the government retook it last year, and to other areas on the road between Torit and the southern capital Juba. For 10 years, Sudan has been racked by a civil war that has killed hundreds of thousands and displaced at least three million Sudanese. Equatorial Sudanese Major-General arturo Arika called on international relief organizations to apply Torit and other areas re-occupied by rebel control. SUNA said Government forces took advantage of rebel splits and captured 14 towns and villages in major offensive last year.

Iran transport minister under fire

TEHRAN (AP) — Iran's parliament (Majlis) Tuesday tabled a motion of no-confidence against the minister of transportation, following a series of accidents involving four recent air and train accidents in which 285 people were killed. Tehran Radio reported the broadcast said Mohammad Saeedi Kya had 10 days to appear before parliament to defend allegations against his ministry. The petition was signed by 40 members of the 270 seat assembly, the radio said. The summons cited 11 complaints against the ministry, the radio said, including "inability to utilize available means to establish secure air traffic... (and) implementing changes without reason in the management of the national air and the civil aviation author-

Turkey to reopen Baghdad embassy

ANKARA (AP) — The Turkish government in Baghdad will reopen the arrival of the charge official said Tuesday. The official said the embassy would stay in Baghdad permanently beginning March 4. Turkey withdrew its diplomats from Baghdad following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The official said the presence of the Turkish diplomat in Baghdad would allow Turkey to reach political developments in Iraq.

Turks to take U.S. court for damages

ANKARA (AP) — Relatives of 15 Turkish sailors killed when a U.S. aircraft carrier fired on a Turkish destroyer will go to court to demand higher compensation, a defense minister said Tuesday. The sailors were killed when the USS Spawford was fired by a U.S. aircraft carrier Saratoga in the Turkish destroyer's waters last October during exercises in the Aegean Sea. A defense minister Nevzat Ozal told parliament that the government helped the families reach an agreement with a U.S. firm to pursue the case. In a separate move, a deputy for the People's Republic Party, said the United States offered to pay a compensation of \$250,000 to the families of the victims. However, said if the victims were American citizens the payment would be three times higher.

N. to send more servers to S. Africa

JANNESBURG (AP) — The United Nations has decided to send another 10 observers to South Africa to bolster the 50-member team studying political reform, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday. U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan recommended the 10 members in a report released to the Security Council. The world body agreed to send observers to South Africa after the June massacre of blacks in a township south of Johannesburg. The massacre drew crucial negotiations between the white-led government and the African National Congress, which accused security forces of involvement. It prompted a debate on political violence that has killed at least 9,000 in the past three years.

Christopher pushes compromise in talks with Israelis, Palestinians

Israel says it is 'ready' for speedy judicial review of exiles, asserts expulsion is not government policy

Combined agency despatches

U.S. SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher turned to Israelis and Palestinians Tuesday for help in resuming stalled Middle East peace talks, as Israel offered assurances that expelling Palestinians was not a government policy.

Israel also indicated that, without fanfare, it would speed up its review of Palestinian expulsion cases. The aim, Israeli officials said, is to give the Palestinians a "face-saving" gesture that should enable them to agree to resume negotiations over self-rule in April.

Trying to smooth over the festering controversy over Palestinians expelled to Lebanon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said after seeing Mr. Christopher that "deportation is not a policy of the government." He called last December's expulsions "an exception."

Mr. Christopher wants Israel to expedite appeals from Palestinians expelled last December on suspicion that they incited anti-Israeli violence. And he wants the Palestinians to accept a compromise and agree to return to negotiations in Washington in April.

Israeli officials, while offering more rapid review of the expulsion cases, at the same time stressed that the ultimate decision on when the Palestinians would be repatriated from Lebanon was



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin (left) shakes hands with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Jerusalem Tuesday (AFP photo)

not up to the government but to courts.

Appeals would be handled by military courts that are independent of government influence. Gad Ben Ami, spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, said after a Christopher-Rabin meeting.

"We have to hope they complete their work as soon as possible," Mr. Ben Ami said.

The decision to expedite review of expulsion cases will be announced in a low-key way, if at all, a senior Israeli official told the Associated Press.

The big question, Israeli officials said, is whether the Palestinians will accept the offer. They have been demanding the im-

mediate return of all 396 Palestinian expellees from Lebanon and refusing to resume negotiations on limited self-rule otherwise.

On the last and toughest leg of his first Middle East tour, Mr. Christopher met Israeli and Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli officials called the two-hour meeting with Mr. Rabin "useful. Palestinians said their talks were dominated by the expulsion crisis.

Asked if he would return to the Washington talks Palestinian delegate Elias Freij said: "It rests in the hands of Mr. Rabin."

"The question of the deportees is an essential element which has

Gazan shot dead

Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied Gaza Strip Tuesday, the 50th Palestinian killed since Israel's mass expulsion of Palestinians to Lebanon in December, witnesses said. Palestinians said Awad Al Surdi, 29, a male nurse at a United Nations clinic, was shot while standing on the roof of his home in the Rafah refugee camp during demonstrations.

They said troops wounded 12 other people.

Palestinians said he was killed 10 minutes before dark on the second day of the fast of Ramadan.

Palestinians said soldiers earlier wounded five Arabs in clashes in Khan Younis, near Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. They said a 65-year-old man was shot in the head.

created a lot of difficulties and it has to be resolved," Mr. Freij, mayor of Bethlehem, said after a 90-minute meeting between Mr. Christopher and 10 Palestinian leaders.

Two Palestinian officials who spoke on condition of anonymity said Mr. Christopher was to be assured at the meetings that

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Sharaa: Evictee crisis still a hurdle

PARIS (R) — Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said Tuesday the issue of Palestinian expellees still prevented rapid resumption of Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Mr. Sharaa, in France on a two-day visit, said the situation could be eased by complying with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for repatriation of the Palestinians.

"We consider that the question of the deportees is an obstacle preventing the peace talks which we do want to resume as soon as possible," he told reporters after meeting French President Francois Mitterrand.

Talks have been stalled since Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to South Lebanon on Dec. 17.

Mr. Sharaa discussed the issue of the peace talks last week in Damascus with new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who was in Israel Tuesday as part of a Middle East tour.

Mr. Sharaa told reporters that Mr. Christopher had "reaffirmed the Clinton administration's determination to pursue the peace process with as much, if not more, determination and efficiency than the Bush administration."

Mr. Sharaa also said he had not discussed Lebanon with Mr. Mitterrand and that the issue "concerned bilateral relations" between Damascus and Beirut.

French officials said before Mr. Sharaa's arrival that Paris regretted Syria's failure to abide by agreements aimed at the departure of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

The officials said France wanted to maintain close dialogue with Damascus on the Middle East peace process and promote economic and cultural cooperation.

Mr. Sharaa was later due to meet French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas.

Meanwhile, officials in Damascus said Lebanese President Elias Hrawi called Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Monday to brief him on talks in Beirut with Mr. Christopher.

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More Israelis now favour Palestinian state, poll says

TEL AVIV (R) — More Israelis now favour ceding occupied Arab lands and the formation of an independent Palestinian state than at any other time in the past six years, according to an opinion poll published Tuesday.

The survey of 1,139 Israelis by the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies showed 60 per cent favoured trading part of the occupied territories for peace — up from about 40 per cent in 1987.

The Tel Aviv University Centre released the poll after the arrival Monday of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher in Israel to revive Middle East peace talks.

It also showed that 36 per cent of Israelis were ready to accept the establishment of an independent Palestinian state next to Israel, up from 20 per cent in 1987.

"This shows that the Israeli public are strategically dovish.

More and more Israelis are willing to return territories, deal with the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) and deal with the possibility of a Palestinian state," centre deputy director Joseph Alpher said.

The survey showed little change in feelings about an Israeli pullback from the Golan Heights in return for a peace treaty with Syria, despite nearly 16 months of peace talks between the two countries.

The poll found six per cent were willing to return all of the strategic plateau to Syria, the same as in 1987. It showed 46 per cent opposed any withdrawal from the Heights, down from 49 per cent in 1987.

The poll, conducted in the first half of January, did not touch on the expulsions. Mr. Alpher said the questionnaire was prepared before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's government expelled 415

Palestinians to Lebanon in December.

Israeli settlers on the Golan demonstrated outside while Mr. Christopher met Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin at his office Tuesday.

The protesters trucked in snow to register their opposition to yielding the Golan to Syria in exchange for peace.

About 100 metres from the Golan protesters, several dozen wives and children of the Palestinians expelled rallied against returning peace talks before their men are brought home.

Armed border patrol guards stood in between, but the two groups managed to have a dialogue when the Arab women had to pass by the Israelis to leave.

"You garbage," an Israeli protester shouted at the Palestinian women.

"You're also garbage," one of the women shouted back.

Christopher comments on Syrian troops irk Beirut

BEIRUT (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's call for Syrian forces to be withdrawn from Syria into the Bekaa Valley at the earliest date, Mr. Christopher said.

Syria's 40,000 troops control 70 per cent of Lebanon. They have been stationed in northern, eastern and central Lebanon under a 1976 peacekeeping mandate from the Arab League, including the environs of Beirut and Tripoli, the country's second largest city.

A clause in the Taif accord provided for the redeployment of Syrian troops into Lebanon's eastern reforms, which were approved by the Lebanese parliament Sept. 22, 1990.

But Syria contends it is bound to carry out the redeployment only when the Lebanese reforms were implemented, not ratified.

The Syrians also assert that an early withdrawal from Beirut and Tripoli in northern Lebanon would risk a return to civil war because the Lebanese army still was incapable of filling the post-withdrawal security vacuum.

After Mr. Christopher's visit, Mr. Hrawi conferred by telephone with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, and Mr. Hrawi

Women married to non-Kuwaitis demand rights

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwaiti women married to non-Kuwaitis turned to their parliament Tuesday to demand jobs for their husbands.

"My children wish they were Sri Lankans. At least they could work," said Khairiya Nasrallah, the widow of a stateless man who lived in Kuwait most of his life.

She has three sons who can not go to college or find a job because they lack citizenship.

About 7,000 Kuwaiti women married to stateless Arabs, Iraqis, Palestinians and nationals of other countries which were seen as supporting Iraq during its occupation of Kuwait find themselves in the same predicament.

Over 500 crowded into the visitors' gallery at parliament, meeting after a two-week recess, to listen to lawmakers discuss a letter of complaint they had sent earlier. Guards confiscated a banner they planned to unfurl.

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Egyptian sentenced to death

ALEXANDRIA (AP) — A military court Tuesday sentenced a Muslim extremist to death for killing a police officer. Muslim extremists meanwhile shot to death Sayyed Khalil, a 35-year-old farmer, because they suspected he was tipping police on their movements, according to a report by the Middle East News Agency from Assiut, 500 kilometres to the south. The state-owned agency said two extremists, identified as Suleiman Abdul Hafeez, 36, and Mahmoud Samy, 18, were arrested in connection with the killing. Hassan Shehata Badran, 45, became the ninth militant to receive the death penalty in trials since last October. The trials followed an upsurge of Muslim extremist violence last year in which 80 people died, including a British tourist. Another military court in Alexandria heard last October and November two cases involving a total of 40 defendants. The accused in those trials were charged with attempting to overthrow or destabilise the government by "terrorist" methods. Eight men were sentenced to death, four to life imprisonment, 27 to lesser jail terms and nine were acquitted. Of the eight awaiting the gallows, only one was in custody. The rest have been at large.

Senate passes press law after reversing stand on 'journalist'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In a surprise reversal of its previous decision to abolish a clause on the definition of journalists in the draft press and publication law, the Upper House of Parliament (Senate) Tuesday voted to reinstate the provision as presented by the government. The clause restricts recognition of journalists to those "who fulfill conditions included in the effective Jordan Press Association (JPA) law and who practise journalism in accordance with its provisions."

Twenty-four of 29 deputies present voted in favour of a motion by Senator Salem Masa'ed to adopt the government's definition of journalists before approving the draft law.

Dr. Masa'ed argued for reinstating the clause on the grounds that its abolition refers the definition of journalists to the 1983 JPA law, which is a temporary one and needs to be revised. His proposal was seconded by Sen. Mohammad Rasoul Al Keilani.

JPA President Suleiman Qudah Tuesday welcomed the Senate's decision as much as he

did its earlier amendment to abolish the definition of journalists because both steps meant that recognition was restricted to JPA members.

The Senate's vote amounts to a JPA victory over a group of non-JPA journalists who strongly lobbied against limiting recognition of journalists to JPA members because they say that encroaches upon their freedom of association and denies them their "right" to work.

A committee for the freedom of journalists, established by non-JPA members to fight the article, had received with satisfaction the Senate's decision on Feb. 11 to abolish the clause, in article 2, saying that the JPA law according to which journalists would have been defined does not apply to them.

The committee Tuesday deplored the Senate's vote saying that it cannot be implemented and "definitely undemocratic."

"The decision shows the narrow-mindedness of the proponents of this orientation to force journalists to join the association," Salameh Ne'mat, correspondent of the Al Hayat Arabic daily in Jordan and an active member of

the journalists freedoms committee, told the Jordan Times.

The Senate's vote, however, did not spell the end of the debate on the controversial clause, which is expected to be amended by the Lower House when the draft legislation is referred back to it.

The House has the legal right to accept or reject the Senate's amendments, stick by its original vote on it or introduce new changes. The House cannot reconsider articles that were not amended by the Senate.

A member of the 22-strong Muslim Brotherhood bloc in the House told the Jordan Times Feb. 12 that his bloc would move a proposal to amend the article in favour of non-JPA members.

Representatives of the various blocs of the House told the Jordan Times earlier they would support such a motion, while Mr. Ne'mat said his group will launch a new lobbying campaign with the House.

In its session Tuesday, the Senate also voted to keep article 56 of the draft law which prescribes punishments for violators of provisions of the draft law for which

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U.N. inspectors leave Baghdad after failed search for Scuds

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Two teams of U.N. weapons inspectors left Baghdad Tuesday after the most intensive hunt they have yet mounted apparently failed to locate Scud missiles.

The teams rushed to three military installations Monday to check what they called very important information on Iraq's long-range missile programme.

An Iraqi official said they found nothing. A team leader declined to confirm or deny this but in comments to reporters indicated the inspectors were leaving Baghdad empty-handed.

"We were checking very specific information related to prohibited items," Nikita Smidovitch told reporters before departing. "Best to check and close this issue."

Mr. Smidovitch, a Russian, headed a team of 21 arms experts which flew in to Baghdad to join forces with another 13-strong team under Frenchman Patrice Palanque.

The United Nations believe Iraq is hiding missiles in defiance

of the terms of the ceasefire which followed the Gulf war.

Mr. Smidovitch said Monday questions on whether inspectors had found any Scud missiles should be addressed to the special commission on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Husam Mohammadamin, the Iraqi official in charge of coordinating the inspectors' movements, said on Monday: "They found nothing. This is great proof that we are hiding nothing."

Asked before leaving if he gave credit to the Iraqi side, Mr. Smidovitch said: "Credit? Yes, if our final analysis shows."

The visit was definitely worthwhile, he said.

"It was a good inspection," Mr. Mohammadamin said Iraq had complied fully with Security Council Resolution 687 to eliminate its weapons of mass destruction. "This is 100 per cent," he said Monday.

The two U.N. teams left Tuesday for Bahrain, regional headquarters of the United Nations special commission which is over-

seeing implementation of the Security Council resolution adopted after the 1991 Gulf war.

Monday's search followed reports that the ballistic missile team led by Mr. Palanque had come across evidence that Iraq was hiding ballistic missile facilities.

No ballistic missile has been found in Iraq since March 1992, although Western intelligence experts estimate there may be 100 to 200 hidden away.

The special commission teams are supposed to ensure that Iraq fulfils the Gulf war ceasefire conditions to dismantle its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missiles with a range over 150 kilometres.

Mr. Smidovitch said Tuesday the U.N. believes that gaps still existed in Iraqi information on ballistic missiles and the U.N. would be sending more teams to fill them in.

"There are gaps and the Iraqis are fully aware of that and we have discussed that on several occasions."

U.S. issues ultimatum to Somalia warlord

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — U.S.-led forces issued an ultimatum Tuesday to Somali warlord Mohammed Said Hersi, also known as General Morgan, to pull his militia out of the southern city of Kismayu by midnight Thursday or face military action.

The ultimatum also applied to all of Gen. Morgan's forces who may be outside their designated assembly point in the town of Doble, 50 kilometres northwest of Kismayu. U.S. military spokesman Colonel Fred Peck said.

"Anything out of that cantonment by that date will be confiscated and destroyed," he said, adding that U.S. forces in the 23-nation task force would enforce the order.

"We want all of Morgan's forces — not just those in Kismayu — and their weapons to be in their designated cantonment area," Mr. Peck said.

The ultimatum was communicated to Morgan by radio after about 150 of his men stormed Kismayu Monday and fought forces of rival warlord Omar Jess.

At least 11 people were killed and more than 21 wounded in the worst fighting in Somalia since the task 33,000-strong force began deploying in December to end gun law and looting of food aid for starving Somalis.

Col. Peck denied an earlier United Nations report that Kismayu had fallen to Morgan forces. He said the warlord's militia controlled only about one square kilometre of the city.

U.N. spokesman in Somalia Farouk Mawlawi had told reporters the world body had informa-

tion indicating that Gen. Morgan's troops had taken control of Kismayu, sending at least 3,000 of Colonel Jess's supporters fleeing northwards.

Contacted by Reuters after Col. Peck's briefing, Mr. Mawlawi said the U.N. had dispatched an official to Kismayu to investigate exactly what was happening in Kismayu.

In Mogadishu, supporters of Somalia's another warlord stormed the city and threw up barricades of flaming tyres in Mogadishu Tuesday in a protest against alleged U.S. support of Gen. Morgan.

Scores of chanting followers of warlord General Mohammad Farah Aided, accusing the Americans of backing Gen. Morgan, used burning to block off Mogadishu's main road leading to the U.S. embassy.

The same road leads to the logistics support headquarters of the U.S.-led multinational force in the country.

Protesters stoned passing cars but reporters on the scene could not tell whether anyone had been injured in the darkness.

While the demonstration went on, Gen. Aided spoke on Radio Mogadishu, denouncing the multinational task force. He accused the foreign troops of backing Gen. Morgan.

No new fighting was reported Tuesday, and U.S.-led coalition forces were trying to arrange a meeting with clan elders supporting Col. Jess. Representatives of Gen. Morgan met with the U.S.-led coalition forces and said they were willing to turn over their weapons if they could remain in Kismayu.

Rabbani extends ceasefire

KABUL (R) — Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani has announced an extension of a fragile ceasefire in the shell-shattered capital Kabul for the fasting month of Ramadan.

"Due to the Holy Month of Ramadan and our belief in the strategy of negotiation, we extend the period of the ceasefire," Mr. Rabbani said in a broadcast on official Kabul Radio.

The fundamentalist president appealed to his opponents, the radical Hezb-e-Islami party and their Shiite Hezb-e-Wahdat allies, to respect the month of fasting and hold their fire.

Kabul has been mostly quiet since a temporary ceasefire took effect 10 days ago after four weeks of fierce battles that killed 1,000 civilians and injured more than 6,000.

Rocket exchanges and automatic gunfire pounded the southwest of the city for about three hours overnight. No details of casualties were available. The government accused Hezb-e-Islami, led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, of violating the truce.

A Hezb-e-Islami commander, Hokuma Khan, said the fighting was between government troops and Hezb-e-Wahdat, which is trying to recover positions lost to the government in the recent battles.

Presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad said the government considered new peace terms put

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Copts in Egypt feel alienated

By Samia Nakhoul
Reuters

CAIRO — Magdi is only nine years old but he already knows that to be a Christian in Egypt is to be different. He tells other children he is a Muslim so they will agree to play with him.

Imad Atiyeh is 14 and has never been to a Muslim's house or had a Muslim friend home. "They make fun of us at school, they humiliate us, curse us and refuse to play with us...they provoke fights with us to beat us," he says.

Egypt's six million Christians belong to a variety of different churches but are often referred to simply as Copts, the largest sect which is headed by an Egyptian pope. They are among the country's richest and best educated people but still feel like second-class citizens and, faced with a rising tide of Muslim fundamentalism, many are emigrating.

Building or even repairing a church requires government permission which can be hard to obtain but almost anybody can build a mosque without restrictions.

Copts say they are denied top posts in public life, police and army. Schoolships, they say, go to Muslims first.

The best example they give is the man who is probably the world's most famous Copt, Boutros Ghali. He was able to become U.N. secretary-general but was never appointed Egyptian foreign minister, even though he was deputy minister for years.

About 90 per cent of Egypt's 59 million people are Muslims, many of them descended from Christians who converted in the centuries after Muslim General Amr Al Aas conquered Egypt at the dawn of the new religion more than 1,300 years ago.

Those who remained Christians are the ancestors of the present-day Copts who lay claim to a tradition of Egyptian Christianity stretching back to the first century. Even the word "Copt" is linked to the word "Egypt," they say, the ancient pharaonic name for the country adopted by the Romans.

"I am not different from a Muslim. I am even superior to him. I study more than him and work harder. I graduated with distinction and when I went looking for a job I found that he got the job first," said Joubaina Sobhi, 24.

Discrimination affects the ability to earn a living. Yasmine Saad, a shopkeeper, said: "Muslims go to Muslim shops to buy goods. They don't come to us because we're Christians."

The solution for many has been emigration. Over the past

15 years, Coptic sources believe as many as half a million frustrated young Christians have left for Canada or the United States in search of brighter prospects.

"I know I don't have a chance here. When I get the means to emigrate to Europe or Canada I will," said Imad Fayed, 21.

Antoine Sidhom, publisher of Al Watani newspaper, mouthpiece of the Copts, said discrimination has hit a record in schools where Muslim fundamentalist teachers "squirrel out the poisons of hatred into the souls of Muslim students against Christians."

Coptic children, too young to realise what it all means, say fanatical teachers have been inciting Muslim students not to play with them, accusing them of being "atheists and infidels."

Students said extremist teachers have scrapped Christian philosophers from the curriculum and replaced them with Muslims.

At some schools, Coptic girls have been beaten and forced to wear the veil. Headmasters have segregated Muslims and Copts by putting them in different classes, prompting the Education Ministry to intervene.

Many Coptic students say they hide their crosses underneath their clothes for fear of provoking aggressive remarks or acts.

The government does not hesitate to take tough measures when there is any physical threat to Copts. Troops are deployed round the clock outside all churches.

The government cracked down hard when Muslim militants in the southern Nile Valley attacked Christians, Christian property and churches last year, killing 13 Copts in one incident.

But Copts feel the government took much firmer action when the militants began targeting foreigners and killed a British woman in October, producing a drastic fall in earnings from tourism.

The Copts can be as dogmatic towards Muslims as they accuse Muslims of being towards them. Some Coptic families publish obituaries in newspapers declaring their daughters dead when they marry Muslims. A Copt who marries a Muslim is considered an apostate and is banished from church.

Church leaders are proud that marriages, feasts, funerals and festivals are celebrated according to rites unchanged down the centuries.

"No internal change has occurred to the community throughout the years...through deep faith, handed from father to son, we have preserved our heritage," Bishop Tawfilos Anba Paul, secretary of Pope Shenouda III, told Reuters.



PROTEST IN JERUSALEM: A mother of a Palestinian expelled and her daughter demonstrate for the return of the Palestinian Israel expelled to South Lebanon on Dec. 17 as U.S. Secretary of State

Warren Christopher meets with Israeli Prime Minister Tuesday (AFP photo)

Philippine minister takes look at Gulf workers

DUBAI (R) — Philippines Labour Minister Nieves Confesor, on a mission to investigate conditions of her country's workers in the Gulf, said she saw a 13-year-old girl employed as a housemaid in Kuwait.

"That girl should not have been allowed to leave the Philippines," she said Monday night before ending a visit to Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Ms. Confesor did not elaborate on the circumstances in which she saw the child or what happened to her.

"This is a problem that should be straightened out in Manila," she said.

But she told a crowd of Filipino residents in Dubai the Philippine government did not plan to prohibit its people from working as maids in the Gulf despite frequent reports of abuse by employers. Such a ban would be circumvented anyway, she said.

"If the government imposes a ban, then illegally-recruited maids will go to Singapore and Bangkok and then catch a flight to the Gulf. I cannot post an immigration official in Bangkok to prevent them from coming here," Ms. Confesor said.

"There is an existing ban on the deployment of maids in Kuwait but they continue to go there through transit points in Dubai," she said.

The Philippines stopped maids going to Kuwait after the Gulf war in 1991 because of widespread abuses.

About 300 Filipinas are now taking refuge in the Philippine embassy in Kuwait out of an estimated 9,000 in the country, the consul-general in Kuwait, Weccas Quiroga, said Monday.

Ms. Confesor said the flow of Filipina maids to the Gulf would stop only when the economy improves back home.

"Our workers should have a choice of what job to do and where to go," she added.

About half a million Filipinas, including engineers, medical personnel, labourers and maids, work in the Middle East. Many are there illegally without permits and are vulnerable to abuse by unscrupulous recruiters and employers.

Filipinas make up most of the 100,000 foreign maids in the UAE, where residence laws prohibit employers from sheltering those who flee their employers for alleged abuses.

In such cases they are housed in an immigration department detention centre.

Sri Lanka said in November it was setting up a welfare fund in the UAE for a hostel where Sri Lankan maids can take refuge from employers they say mistreat them.

Ms. Confesor said that during her four-day visit to Kuwait, she reached agreement with the authorities on measures to curb abuse of Filipina maids.

Mr. Quiroga said Kuwait had also pledged to help the 300 maids to go home.

5 sentenced to death in killing of Algerian forces

ORAN, Algeria (AP) — Five Muslims accused of killing a policeman and a soldier have been sentenced to death by a special court in this northwestern Algerian city.

It was the first trial held under three secret tribunals set up by special decree last October to deal with cases of alleged terrorism.

Three other defendants were given prison sentences of five years, and four were acquitted by the secret court, whose judges cannot be identified in the press.

The prosecution had earlier Monday asked for four death sentences and prison terms of 10 to 20 years.

The trial opened Sunday of the 12 Muslim militants, who were accused of murder, conspiring against state security and organising armed groups.

They were on trial for the assassination of the two security personnel and attempting to kill another policeman and soldier.

Among the defendants were two teachers, a college professor

and several employees of public enterprises. Their leader, Abdul Salam Mohamoud, had told the court that he had been tortured during his detention.

The court was one of three set up last October to deal specifically with extremist attacks, which have increased dramatically in the past year.

Along with two other courts, in Algiers and Constantine, the tribunals will try some 3,500 people arrested during the unrest that has engulfed the country since parliamentary elections were cancelled in January 1992.

Muslim fundamentalist candidates were on their way to sweeping to control of the national assembly when an army-backed committee forced President Chadli Benjedid to resign, and installed a junta-like ruling council.

Skirmishes have continued since then between armed Muslim radicals and police and soldiers, leaving some 600 people dead including 250 security personnel.

Amnesty: Morocco, Polisario still violating human rights

LONDON (AP) — Amnesty International said Tuesday that Morocco and its adversary the Polisario Front continue to violate human rights in the disputed Western Sahara despite the presence there of United Nations personnel.

The independent London-based group said in a report that human rights guarantees under a 1991 plan agreed by the United Nations, Morocco, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) and the Polisario Front have not been respected.

"Despite the existence of U.N. personnel on the ground, hundreds of people of Sahrawi (Western Saharan) origin have reportedly been arrested or otherwise harassed on suspicion of supporting Western Saharan independence or for participating in peaceful protests," it said.

"Hundreds more Sahrawis, who were arrested by members of the Moroccan security forces between 1975 and 1988 remain 'disappeared,' reportedly held in secret detention...without charge or trial," it said.

"Abuses by the Polisario Front (include) detention of prisoners of conscience, long-term incommunicado detention, torture and deaths in custody of suspected opponents in the Polisario camps in Tindouf" in western Algeria, it added.

The five-page report said the 1991 plan included a renewed proposal for a U.N.-supervised referendum to determine the future of the Western Sahara.

The report said Amnesty International takes no position on the conflicting claims to the Western Sahara or on who should be eligible to vote in the referendum.

But it said the organisation was concerned that provisions for freedom of expression and the release of political prisoners laid down in the plan have not been respected.

The Western Sahara, formerly the Spanish Sahara, was split between Morocco and Mauritania in 1976 after Spain withdrew from its former colony in December 1975. In 1979, Mauritania renounced its claim to its share of the territory, which was added by Morocco to its area.

Morocco's annexation is opposed by the Polisario Front guerrillas, who want the territory to become an independent state.

On Aug. 30, 1988, Morocco and the Polisario Front accepted an initial U.N. peace plan. Under that plan, a ceasefire was declared and a referendum was to be held in January 1992 to determine the future of the area.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Relatives of Iraq detainees meet Hurd

LONDON (R) — Relatives of two Britons jailed in Iraq met Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Monday but emerged apparently without hopes of an early end to their imprisonment. The Foreign Office said the meeting between Mr. Hurd and the relatives of Paul Ride and Michael Wainwright was amicable and lasted about 40 minutes. They briefed Mr. Hurd on their recent visit to Baghdad to see the men and handed over a letter from them to Prime Minister John Major. "Please could you use every resource at your disposal to effect our early release," the letter said, according to Julie Ride, wife of Paul Ride, and Mr. Wainwright's mother and two sisters who attended the meeting with Mr. Hurd. A Foreign Office spokesman said Mr. Hurd "reassured them that we will continue to do everything in our power to obtain the release of the two men." But Mrs. Ride told reporters after the meeting: "We are going to keep on the Foreign Office's back...it really needs the British government to sit down and talk with Iraq to get anything constructive out of the situation." Mr. Wainwright's mother Iris asked whether she had been reassured by the meeting, said simply, "No." Mr. Ride, 33, was sentenced to seven years in jail for allegedly entering Iraq illegally from Turkey on a cycle holiday and was given a 10-year sentence for the same offence.

Saddam relative treated in Sweden

STOCKHOLM (AP) — A close relative of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein received medical treatment in Sweden last month, a foreign ministry official said Monday. Peter Teijler said the visit by President Saddam's half sister had nothing to do with attempts to win the release of three Swedes jailed in Iraq. He said she was in her 30s and suffering from cancer, but declined to give her name. "On her return, our embassy staff contacted her in Amman and reminded her of the fate of the three Swedes," Mr. Teijler said. An Iraqi court sentenced Stefan Winborg, Leif Westerberg and Christer Stromgren in September to seven years in prison for illegally entering Iraq. The Swedes were installing telephone equipment in Kuwait when they strayed across the border. The Swedish government has sent humanitarian aid and softened criticism of Iraq in efforts to get the Swedes released. Mr. Teijler said the woman came to Sweden because of an arrangement with a private Swedish doctor. He said the visit did not breach international sanctions against Iraq.

Bosnian war wounded in Algeria for treatment

ALGIERS (R) — Sixty war wounded from Bosnia arrived in Algeria Monday for treatment during the Holy Month of Ramadan, the Algerian news agency APS said. Flown in on an Air Algerie plane from the Croatia city of Split, they were met at Algiers airport by six government ministers. They will be treated at the two best hospitals in the capital, APS said. Algeria has set up a solidarity committee, composed of representatives of the government and humanitarian groups, for victims of the fighting in the former Yugoslavia. The committee has collected funds to finance a relief programme in favour of Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Iran urges more aid to Bosnian Muslims

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati has urged the Muslim world to step up humanitarian aid to fellow Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. "I think all Muslim countries should send humanitarian aid and relief to the Muslims in Bosnia more than before," Iran's official news agency IRNA Tuesday quoted him as saying. "The Islamic World should do more, should take more positive steps for helping the Bosnia-Herzegovina Muslims who are under the heavy pressure of the Serbs and they are suffering from their atrocities," Mr. Velayati added. He said the former Yugoslav republics should resolve their differences with neighbouring states as soon as possible. "If they cannot solve these differences it would become a chronic wound and it would not benefit the security in the region. We hope they can solve their problems soon," he added.

17 Turkish climbers missing on mountain

ANKARA (R) — Seventeen Turkish climbers were missing on a western mountain since Sunday, Turkey's private Kanal-6 television network said Tuesday. The group of students from Istanbul's Yildiz University planned to climb the 2,500-metre peak of Uludag, the ancient Mount Olympus and a popular skiing resort. The television said police and paramilitary gendarme skiers would be searching Tuesday after an earlier rescue team of 10 was stranded by heavy snowstorms.

Iranian urges Christians to help kill Rushdie

NICOSIA (R) — The speaker of the Iranian parliament, Ali Akbar Nateq-Nouri, said Monday that Christians should join Muslims in hunting down and killing British novelist Salman Rushdie. Mr. Nateq-Nouri, meeting Canadian Ambassador Paul Dingleline, criticised the Western governments' growing public support for Mr. Rushdie, whose death was ordered by the late Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini four years ago. "Is an ignorant person so important for the West to jeopardise its interests and risk a confrontation with the world of Islam?" Iran's IRNA news agency quoted him as saying. A British official said Monday that Prime Minister John Major was preparing for a public meeting with the author, who has lived in hiding under police protection since 1989. Mr. Rushdie, 45, said in an interview broadcast Sunday that he had asked for the meeting with Mr. Major as "a symbolic gesture but an important one." The Indian-born author has visited nine countries in the past year, including Canada in December, to lobby for pressure on Tehran to let the edict was irrevocable. He said the Prophet Mohammed was not the only prophet insulted in Mr. Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," religions, especially Christians, should coordinate with Muslims to remove this undesirable element," Mr. Nateq-Nouri said. "Nations must not let anyone mock religious beliefs on the pretext of freedom of expression," he added. Ayatollah Khomeini, who died four months after issuing the edict, said Muslims could hire non-Muslims to assassinate Mr. Rushdie. An Iranian charity has offered a bounty of more than \$2 million.

Excavation findings add credence to 'The Iliad'

TROY, Ohio (AP) — Archaeological findings in the ancient city of Troy in modern-day Turkey show evidence that the Trojan war described by Homer in "The Iliad" may have occurred, archaeologists said Monday.

Manfred Korfmann, an archaeologist at the University of Tübingen in Germany, said he could not say for certain that the Trojan war described by Homer as happening in 1300 B.C. really occurred.

But he said his excavation of Troy has revealed a much larger city than previously believed, including fortifications, palaces and cemeteries — things that Homer must have known of when he wrote "The Iliad" in 730 B.C. Experts previously had doubted Homer's account, saying such a war would be unlikely over a small city.

Homer wrote that the war be-

gan when Trojan Prince Paris kidnapped Helen, the wife of the king of Sparta. For the next 10 years, Greek armies laid siege to Troy in retaliation.

When the war reached a stalemate, Homer said, the Greeks pretended to withdraw, leaving behind a large wooden horse as a peace offering. When the Trojans took the horse into the city, Greek soldiers who had been hiding inside emerged and conquered the city.

Experts have said that any such war probably was caused by Troy's power and strategic importance and not the kidnapping of Helen.

Troy was first excavated by German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann in 1871. Since then, archaeologists have argued that the citadel was too small to have been the Homeric Troy.

Mr. Korfmann and Brian Rose, an archaeologist from the

University of Cincinnati, are part of a team that has been excavating the site since 1988. They described their work and presented findings to students in Troy, Ohio, which is trying to establish a sister city relationship with Troy, Turkey.

The two plan to discuss their findings later this week at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

"The fortification wall of the city went much further south and encompassed a much larger area than we ever thought before," Mr. Rose said. "Now we can see there are more details with respect to 'The Iliad' that seem to be appropriate. There's more of a tie in there."

Mr. Rose said the team's work has added to the knowledge about that period of time.

"You can't separate Troy from 'The Iliad' of Homer. 'The Iliad' lies at the foundation of Western

civilisation as the best of our literature," he said. "So what we're doing is trying to explain the background of 'The Iliad' and the effect 'The Iliad' had on that site and in a sense on the whole Mediterranean world."

Mr. Rose said the ancient Romans viewed the Trojans as their ancestors and that the excavation shows that Augustus, the first Roman emperor, had Troy rebuilt after it was destroyed in the 1st century B.C.

"That's really exciting because he used the Trojan legend extensively in his propaganda all through Rome, as did the subsequent Roman emperors," Mr. Rose said. "Now we've been able to show there was a great deal of money going from the Roman emperors to the mother city of the Romans and it was being built up to its former grandeur because of this legendary connection."

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

18:00 52 Sur La Une
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Saved by the Bell
21:00 Spotlight
21:30 Classic car
22:00 News in English
22:20 Bodyline

PRAYER TIMES

04:49 Fajr
06:06 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:49 Dhuhr
15:02 Asr
17:32 Maghrib
18:49 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrestria Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630651, Tel. 623543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823024, 650932
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair and winds will be southeasterly light to moderate. In Asaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 2 / 16
Asaba 7 / 22
Dessau 0 / 17
Jordan Valley 5 / 21
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 16, Asaba 23. Humidity readings: Amman 31 per cent, Asaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Labadeh 683585
Dr. Zein Zughloul 638991
Dr. Ramzi Mizzawi 894788
Dr. Salmaan Al Daboubi 776751
First pharmacy 661912
Fendous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 67055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shimiciani pharmacy 637660
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 63021
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 641101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

HOSPITALS

Electric Power
Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 68-33200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 68-53300
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81381352
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816
Akil Maternity, J. Amn. 642412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shimiciani 6641714
Shimiciani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Musabir Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Abdali 66612757
Al-Abul, Abdali 6641646
Italian, Al-Mulajjra 7711013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126
Army, Shmaki 89161115
Queen Alia Hospital 6024050
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Court, Hospital (09)83323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)90560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)90990

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
06:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:00 Jordan (RJ)
08:15 Amman (RJ)
09:25 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
10:00 Aden (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

16:35 London (RJ)
16:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
16:55 Istanbul (RJ)
17:00 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
17:30 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
18:00 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)
18:45 Rome (RJ)
23:45 Damascus (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:05 Dubai (AZ)
05:15 Karachi (PI)
05:35 Jeddah (SU)
05:50 Jeddah (SU)
06:30 Sama (TV)
08:30 Damascus (PI)
08:30 Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
19:50 Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)
07:00 Asaba (RJ)
07:15 Rome (RJ)
08:30 London, Berlin (RJ)
10:45 Rome, London (RJ)
11:10 Istanbul (RJ)
11:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
19:30 Colombo (RJ)
19:45 Asaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:00 Riyadh (RJ)
20:15 New Delhi (RJ)
08:00 Amman (RJ)
21:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45 Sama (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in lbs per kg
Apple 700 / 580
Banana 700 / 700
Broom (Mekammar) 640 / 640
Beans 1200 / 950
Cabbage 180 / 120
Carrot 80 / 50
Cauliflower 200 / 150
Cucumbers (large) 400 / 300
Cucumbers (small) 320 / 280
Eggplant 800 / 600
Garlic 200 / 150
Grapefruit 450 / 360
Lemon 300 / 280
Marrow (large) 600 / 500
Marrow (small) 600 / 500
Mint 250 / 180
Onion (dry) 210 / 180
Onion (green) 250 / 180
Orange 480 / 380
Pepper (hot) 650 / 550
Pepper (sweet) 650 / 550
Potato 250 / 180
Spinach 160 / 90

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Brunei and Guyana

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday sent cables of good wishes to Sultan Hassan Balkich of Brunei and President Hugh Desmond Hoyte of Guyana on the occasion of their countries' national day. The King wished the Sultan of Brunei continued happiness and the Brunei people further progress and prosperity. He wished President Hoyte continued success in the leadership of his country.

Parliament to study French loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has referred to Parliament a draft financial protocol with the French government, whereby Jordan will receive a French loan of 80 million French francs (JD10.1 million) to purchase French commodities and French services. The loan is repayable over 20 years at a one per cent interest rate, with a 10-year grace period. Part of the loan will be used to help finance one or two development projects in Jordan, according to sources quoted by Al Rai Arabic daily Tuesday.

Judiciary panel approves articles of draft tenants law

AMMAN (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament Judiciary Committee Monday approved four articles of the draft tenants and landlords law. The House Education Committee met Monday to review higher education policies in Jordan and problems facing Jordanian universities.

Finnish journalist receives Jordanian medal

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree was issued Tuesday conferring on Finnish journalist Rita Tainola the Jordanian Independence Medal of the Third Order in recognition of her constant efforts with regard to Jordanian interests in Finland.

Bulgarian trade minister leaves Jordan after 5-day visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Bulgarian Deputy Premier and Trade Minister Valentine Karbachev left Amman Tuesday, ending a five-day visit to Jordan. The Bulgarian official met with His Majesty King Hussein and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, as well as other officials, to discuss trade between Bulgaria and Jordan. Mr. Karbachev also held talks with the Director General of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the presidents of the Amman Chambers of Industry and Trade to discuss boosting the volume of trade between the two countries.

Traffic department reports casualties

AMMAN (Petra) — Five people were killed and 139 others were injured in 426 car accidents during the second week of February, according to the Traffic Department. The department said the number of accidents during this week rose by one compared to the week before, and the number of deaths dropped by one. Last month the department reported that 38 people were killed and 755 others were injured in 1,744 car accidents in Jordan. The department attributed 18.3 per cent of the accidents to traffic violations, 21.4 per cent to reckless driving, 12.9 to inattention and 8.9 to loss of control over vehicles. Deaths rose by four compared to the month before, and the number of accidents dropped by 66, the department said.

JMA opens board nomination period

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian Medical Association (JMA) Tuesday announced that the period for nominating candidates for the association board has opened for two weeks. The board will have a two-year mandate as of April. The announcement said elections will be held on April 16. JMA members currently number about 10,000.

UNDP contributes agricultural equipment to ministry

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has contributed agricultural equipment to the Ministry of Agriculture for use in the ministry's project to develop the highlands and in implementing range and afforestation plans. Director of Range and Afforestation Mr. Azzam Muheisen received the gift from U.N. resident representative in Jordan Othman Hashem.

Electrification of Irbid's rural areas to begin

AMMAN (Petra) — The director general of the Irbid District Electricity Company, Abdul Raouf Al Sheikh, announced a plan for the electrification of rural regions during 1993. Mr. Sheikh said the plan entails laying 1,600 kilometres of cables.

Tafleh to get new vocational training centre

TAFILEH (Petra) — The Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) has purchased land in Tafleh to build a vocational training centre. VTC Director in Tafleh Governorate Abdul Hameed Al Jufout said the planned building will consist of two parts; one each for female and male students. Meanwhile, the Tafleh Development and Employment Fund (IDEF) reported that it had granted more than JD14,800 in loans to citizens in the Tafleh Governorate. Mr. Jufout said the VTC offers facilities to citizens wishing to apply for loans from the IDEF. He said the VTC has thus far received 144 loan applications, adding that it also offers consultation to owners of small projects and helps them in preparing feasibility studies.

Prestigious award goes to Jordanian architect

AMMAN (J.T.) — Architect Mr. Tukan won the "Arab Architect Award" offered every 5 years to Arab architects by Organisation of Arab Cities (OAC) in recognition of their achievements in the development of contemporary Arab and Islamic architecture. Mr. Tukan received the award during a recent ceremony held in Doha, Qatar, the permanent base of the award. In 1988 the SOS Children's Village in Tareq, designed by Mr. Tukan, won the city of Amman the "Arab City Award" offered by the OAC.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and are daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed place and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

Exhibition of paintings by four Arab artists from the United States — Ghada Jamal, Helen Khal, Saba Nour and Afaf Zarayk — at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation Gallery in Jabal Amman, between the First and Second Circles (10 a.m. - 5 p.m.).

Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Mohammad Fakher at al-Nadwa Art Gallery.

Exhibition of paintings by Iraqi artists Mohammad Fradi and Ibrahimeh Mejbai at Alia Art Gallery.

FILM

British film entitled "When Eight Bells Toll" at 7 p.m. at the British Council (94 min.).



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday visits with young patients at Al Hussein Medical Centre (Petra photo)

Princess Basma begins 3rd annual charity campaign

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Tuesday launched the Third Annual Charity campaign in Jordan by visits to hospitals and poor districts in Amman governorate and urging the public to contribute generously to benefit needy families during the Holy Month of Ramadan.

Princess Basma, who is honorary chairperson of the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) board of trustees visited Um Tineh district in east Amman and met with its poor families to enquire about their living conditions and their needs.

She supervised the distribution of in-kind assistance which included heaters, mattresses, blankets and children's food to 30 poor families.

The princess instructed QAF staff to follow-up on the care of the poor in Um Tineh.

Princess Basma's next stop was at Al Bashir Hospital, where she talked with kidney patients and visited the nuclear treatment unit.

The Princess, who was accompanied by Amman Governor Issa Omar, and other officials from the Ministry of Education, visited Al Hussein Medical Centre and inspected the paediatric unit.

She met volunteers involved in the fund-raising campaign at the Sharq Al Ousai Circle area and

Hashemiteh and Abdali districts and thanked them for their efforts.

At least 10,640 volunteers, mostly scouts, are involved in the campaign which is being conducted in all governorates.

Since early morning Tuesday scores of scouts, carrying boxes to collect coins and wearing special badges, toured various districts, stopping at homes and traffic lights to collect contributions for the needy.

Upon announcing the campaign earlier this month, Princess Basma said some of the families will be granted loans to help them start their own income-generating projects, and needy students with excellent records will receive financial aid to continue their education at community colleges and universities.

She added that women in rural areas will be offered equipment such as sewing machines, and farmers will receive sheep and goats. The handicapped she said, will be given wheelchairs or hearing aids.

Princess Basma said the campaign should foster the concept of social solidarity among members of the Jordanian community during Ramadan.

The Ministry of Education is among a number of departments helping in the campaign.

More needs to be done for bedouins, peasants, visiting German students say

By Samir Barhoum
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A group of German students, on a 16-day visit to Jordan, said the Kingdom should pay more attention to development projects in the countryside and badia regions.

The 20-member Berlin Free University group, who were on the trip to get acquainted with development projects in the Kingdom as part of the requirements of a course at the university's Centre of Development Studies, also underlined the need for the Kingdom to focus more on the environment and to exert more efforts in tackling ecological problems.

The group, led by two professors from the Centre of Development Studies, made several excursions to various parts of the Kingdom, to familiarise themselves with bedouin and peasant life in Jordan.

Jorg Janzen, who is accompanying the students along with his colleague Volker Franzmu-

ler, said Jordan should focus on environmental problems.

"These problems should be more in the centre: the government should maintain the environment for future generations because environment is the basis of living and economy," said Dr. Janzen who teaches social and economic geography at the Berlin Free University.

"I read in books that Jordan until a short time ago was a paradise. Now this paradise is destroyed (because of the increase in population and the haphazard urbanisation process)."

The Azraq Oasis in east Jordan is an example of the destruction of natural sites in Jordan, he said, referring to the pumping of water from the Azraq area to Amman and the depletion of underground water sources.

Dr. Janzen said his students were divided into five groups; each spent one week in a certain area of the country to study the development projects in the countryside and badia regions.

Each group was accompanied by students from the University of Jordan's Department of Geography. The areas under study were Kasha Sleiten in Al Mafraq Governorate, Sweimeh in the Jordan Valley, Maecen, Al Alouk in Zarqa Governorate and Al Rumman in Amman Governorate.

The students observed and studied nomadic and rural life, livestock owners, the effect of development projects on residents, vertical grazing systems, range projects, soil erosion and the effect of afforestation on local life, as well as other issues.

Dr. Janzen said the students' interaction with the bedouins and peasants of Jordan made them believe that the government is not doing enough for these segments of its population. The government is carrying out projects, but these are not enough, they said.

One student, Martin Pallen, summarised the position of the group by saying that they believed there was a conflict be-

tween the interests of the settled and the nomadic population concerning the use of land as grazing areas.

"To meet the demand for food by the increasing population, more and more areas have to be used as farm land, which means a loss of grazing land for the nomads," the student added.

Mr. Pallen said his colleagues believe that irrigation projects in the Jordan Valley are effective, but, he said, the government should be aware of the long-term consequences of such projects, such as salination.

He emphasised the cultural importance of the visit saying it comes at a time when ethnic sentiments and racist attacks against foreigners are becoming a serious problem in Germany.

The delegation, which arrived in Amman Feb. 6 left Monday for Aleppo, Syria, and is due back in Amman on Thursday, for departure to Germany Friday morning.

The delegation was hosted by the Ministry of Social Development.

Bar association presidency candidates voice individual calls for improving the JBA

AMMAN (Petra) — One of nine candidates running for the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) presidency in next month's elections has called for an amendment to the association law that would offer better and more employment opportunities to lawyers, especially recent graduates.

Ismail Mahadin said in a statement the amendment should also provide opportunities for lawyers to obtain more practice and raise their professional standards through lectures by renowned attorneys that would be invited to address them.

Another candidate for the presidency, Fahmi Abu Hweij, supported the idea of introducing amendments to the association law, and called for a change in Articles 43 and 50.

The change and the amendments, he said, are designed to make it imperative for all firms, banks and other organisations to employ lawyers. Marwan Al Hussein, a third candidate said he aims to stimulate the role of Jordanian lawyers in the local community and school Mr. Abu Hweij's idea of making it imperative for all Jordanian firms to

name their own lawyers.

Should he be elected, Mr. Hussein said, he would help work out a system to collect five per cent of lawyers' incomes to finance a health scheme for them and their families.

Candidate Kahlaf Masaadeh said he would fight for the establishment of a lawyers training college. Mr. Masaadeh said he would also introduce a measure whereby a lawyer is prevented from representing clients in courts outside his/her own governorate, except in collaboration

with another lawyer working in that particular governorate.

Omar Damra, a fifth candidate, said he would defend the interests of the association and at the same time would work towards improving and raising the level of the profession.

The other candidates for the president's post are Jawad Yunis, Ahmad Abu Aqoula, Assad Kamal Al Saadi and Kamal Nasser.

Association sources said 51 lawyers are running for the nine-member board.

Ministry to study, update procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Industry and Trade is conducting an analytical study of the administrative procedures followed by the ministry, in order to simplify and update them at various administrative levels, according to Secretary General Marwan Awad.

Mr. Awad said the study will attempt to identify the legal and administrative grounds for the procedures currently in force and the possibility of facilitating such procedures and avoiding duplication of work.

He added that the ministry's Administrative Development and Training Department carried out a study to identify the authorities at various administrative levels, in order to further decentralise procedures and delegate authority to the various administrative levels. Mr. Awad said the organisational structures of most departments at the ministry have been reconsidered and assistants or deputy directors have been appointed.

Irbid area's new passport offices serve 100,000

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Registration and Passports Department last year opened a number of offices in the Irbid area to serve some 100,000 people, according to Department Director Nasouh Muhiyeddin.

This step on the part of the department should facilitate procedures and decentralise the work, in line with the government's administrative development policy, Mr. Muhiyeddin said. He added that new offices were opened in Deir Abi Said, Bani Kananah, Jarash, Ajloun, Ramtha, North Shumeh to ease pressure on the Irbid Civil Registration and Passport Department.

The Director called on citizens living in these areas to transfer their civil registration files to their places of residence in order to benefit from the newly-opened offices.

Irbid Mayor Sami Ishida praised the civil registration department for this step and stressed the importance of coordination between the department and the Ministry of Education to facilitate the issuance of passports to students finishing their Tawjihi examinations.

Antiquities office to convert old prison into a museum

AMMAN (Petra) — The Department of Antiquities plans to establish a natural reserve on 264 dunums within the ancient Nabatean city of Petra in southern Jordan.

Department Director Safwan Al Tel said the department will be directly responsible for the reserve which will be open to local tribes to produce cereals.

The other six reserves in the country are under the direct supervision of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

The department has also secured government approval for

transforming the old Irbid prison, Al Saraya, into a museum. The prison is currently under the control of the Public Security Department (PSD), but will be turned over to the Department of Antiquities soon, Dr. Tel said.

He said renovation of the premises is expected to start within two months.

The Ottoman-built prison will feature vast halls where artefacts from excavations in the north of the country will be displayed, Dr. Tel explained. He said funds have been allocated for the project which will include administrative offices, a library and warehouses.

The department has already established a special committee to carry out the restoration project, Dr. Tel added.

Referring to the excavations in the Greco-Roman city of Jerash, Dr. Tel said an Italian archaeological team is currently conducting excavations in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities.

The joint team has already completed the first stage of maintaining and restoring the retaining walls surrounding the northern warehouses at the entrance of the Artemis Temple at the ancient site, Dr. Tel said.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NEEDED

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National Center for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer
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Bag 9 - Jordan, Telephone: 725411 / 2, Fax: 679677
Applications must be delivered by hand by 14:00 hours of February 28, 1993.

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P.O. Box 9446, Amman-Jordan or fax it to 686751.
Qualified candidates will be contacted subsequently for an interview.

Northern power projects launched

AMMAN — (J.T.) — Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Ali Abul Ragheb Tuesday toured electric power generating and distribution centres and opened projects under a JD 23 million scheme to supply electricity within two years to various parts of the country.

The funds for the 1993-94 project will be raised through a surcharge of one fils per kilowatt consumed by the subscribers.

Accompanied by ministry Secretary General Abdul Wahab Al Zoubi and Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafeh, Mr. Abul Ragheb stopped at sites in Zarqa and Mafraq and Irbid

governorates where he inaugurated several electric power projects that will benefit 1,500 inhabitants.

The total cost of the projects in the three governorates was estimated at JD 500,000, according to Ministry of Energy sources.

At Faihaa village in Zarqa Governorate Mr. Abul Ragheb formally opened a project which cost JD 80,000.

At Zeituneh, the minister opened a JD 130,000 electricity project providing power to 150 residents.

In Mafraq governorate, he inaugurated the electrification of Al Rahamat village with 180 inhabitants.

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Economic Forum

Socio-economic tensions

A LOT of the socio-economic tensions brewing now in our society will subside if our fiscal targets, as ordained in the economic adjustment programme, are modified as to make them more realistic or, in other words, more "Jordanian". The government, especially the Ministry of Finance, has to wage exhausting and fierce media and public relations campaigns every time it wants to introduce any measure of those prescribed in the programme. And this headache will last throughout the next five years. Probably, the worst is to come when the "political bills" of the international economic "assistance" offered to Jordan under the programme start to fall due or become visible.

The budget deficit has to be phased out over the next four or five years. To do that, a host of measures have been, or will be, initiated. Domestic revenues have to be boosted via excessive taxation: public expenditures are checked in a way that has damaged the fabric of social and economic infrastructure, (especially the quality of public services). Price subsidies have to be phased out. Now these measures differ from other measures, such as floating interest rates, because they have direct bearing on the livelihood of the populace. And worse still is that they will be

carried out at the most unfavourable time in the history of Jordan when a tough combination of unemployment, high living costs and stagnant wages and salaries is squeezing the average Jordanian household.

Apparently, the programme had overemphasised the question of the budget deficit, as it treated it as the starting point for the whole process of adjustment. It should have put such stress on the stimulation of production. Elevated levels of production generate more jobs and tax revenues and they tend to dampen, through augmented supply, inflationary pressures. In the presence of a rational import policy, they are also capable of cutting the trade deficit. The fiscal targets of the adjustment programme are specified in terms of percentages to gross domestic product (GDP). When GDP rises, the percentages of the deficit shrink without a drop in the absolute values of the deficit.

However, if it is too late to revert back to the basic variable (GDP) and its growth — and this seems to be the case — the easing of socio-economic tensions calls for the relaxation of the budget deficit targets. Instead of closing the fiscal gap by say, 1997, the terminal year may be postponed to 2000. This shift will

make it possible to freeze tax increases which have recurred in a way which left taxpayers short of breath. The removal of subsidies can also wait until the very last year of the programme, or one or two years later, by which time the anticipated expansion in GDP shall have boosted jobs and per capita incomes to levels that shall enable consumers to bear the consequential increase in prices. In the meantime, the treasury can afford the much-demanded instant, but reasonable, increase in salaries and wages, meant to heal past and present deeply-felt grievances.

Admittedly, the above conception is a scenario which borders on utopia more than on real life. The problem is one of a deep-rooted mentality that does not accommodate any possibility of adjusting the goals of the economic adjustment programme. Consequently, the ongoing policy goes on to "twist the arms" of the society in conformity with the harsh stipulates of the programme and does not envisage any relaxation of its targets. Hence the socio-economic tensions.

The question that should be seriously pondered by politicians, not by technocrats or economists, is: can the society and economy take more tensions and for how long?

By Dr. Abdallah Mafti

Travel forward in time

IT IS BAD enough that cumbersome border crossing procedures exist between Arab states, but to consolidate border posts between them by spending scarce money is disappointing to all Arabs who aspire to remove impediments to Arab unity. Over the past several years, Jordan has spent some JD 9 million on a new post on the border with Syria, not to perpetrate the permanency of these borders but rather to render them more manageable, reasonable and efficient.

Jordanians and Syrians, not to mention other nationalities, endure a lot in crossing borders between their countries, not only because of lack of proper infrastructures to accommodate easy travel between them but also because of the heavy bureaucracy and security measures that prevail over such inter-Arab travel. As long as there are sovereign Arab states which guard the inviolability of their territory, there will always be a need for modern border posts. This is what Jordan has decided to do and that is exactly what Syria and other Arab countries had done in the past. The least that Arab nationals expect, however, is to render travel and commerce between Arab states more in line with what is happening elsewhere in the world. Arabs are envious, and rightly so, of the ease with which Europeans, for example, travel between one European country and another, even before the European Community was established. Elsewhere in the world, there are in place regional arrangements to make communication and transportation among countries of the region less time-consuming and less bureaucratic.

Jordan and Syria did in the past endeavour to make travel between them more efficient and less cumbersome but unfortunately those efforts have not produced the desired results. The two countries can still build on past experiences by not only building new infrastructure for their mutual boundaries but also by making the crossing procedures the envy of other parts of the Arab World. One particular problem touches on passport processing, which is time-consuming and more often than not causes undue hardships to travellers from both countries. Formalities for cars are also unduly difficult and expensive. The problem of issuing insurance to vehicles travelling from one country to another can be solved, by synchronising policies and procedures, and this would facilitate land transport immensely. And since Jordan is embarking on a major highway connecting the capital to the Syrian border, it would be appropriate to link this Jordanian thoroughfare with the Syrian highway linking the Syrian southern part with Damascus.

All such measures are important even though they will never replace the urgent need for Arab unity, if not politically, then economically through the creation of a common market that would serve the interests of all Arabs.

"The principle of deportation is being realised," Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said it all after Israel reached a compromise agreement with the United States. This negotiated compromise has expedited Secretary of State Warren Christopher's visit to the Middle East in an attempt to salvage the peace process. What remains to be seen is how this can be done.

It appears as if Mr. Christopher's decision to visit the Middle East means that resuming the peace process takes precedence over Israel's full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 799. The U.S. decision also, however, ensures at least temporary paralysis and puts into jeopardy the future credibility and effectiveness of the U.N. Security Council. In fact, this misplaced sense of priority puts the Arab parties to the peace talks in a predicament which can eventually undo the process.

My intentions is not to dramatise the consequences of what the U.S. considers a "reasonable" compromise with Israel. It is, however, to demonstrate that though the compromise seems to provide the U.S. temporary respite either from the predicament of being accused of implementing double standards or from an early confrontation with a traditional ally and friend, the decision actually brings a volatile situation closer to explosion.

True, there are Arab governments willing to facilitate the U.S. task on this critical issue, but they are doing so at the risk of further compounding an already complex and dangerous situation. Their eagerness to establish ties with a new and unfamiliar U.S. administration might lead to a popular impression that they are helping to pressure rather than support the Palestinians. In return for being described as "moderate," these governments hope that the present crisis will wither away. As a result, the primary issues are glossed over; Israel has

bought time; the U.S. is temporarily relieved; and the U.N. Security Council realises once again that its writ is inconsequential and inapplicable where Israel is concerned.

Arabs will be further frustrated and a pervasive sense of humiliation will deepen with a disposition that only extremism can restore their dignity if not secure their rights. The willingness to accept the U.S. accommodation of Israel becomes associated with "moderation" and "utility".

The U.S. stance might have been grudgingly palatable if the Arab people, and especially the Palestinians, knew which Israel was being accommodated. Herein lies the legal significance and the serious political implications of Mr. Rabin's statement, "...the principle of deportation is being realised," because this said it all.

A state has the prerogative to deport undesirable aliens. The definition of deportation is "the removal from a country of an alien whose presence is unlawful or prejudicial, always to their country of origin." It is clear, therefore, that if "the principle of deportation is realised" by this proposed compromise between the U.S. and Israel, then Israel is treating it as ratifying its right to deport, at will.

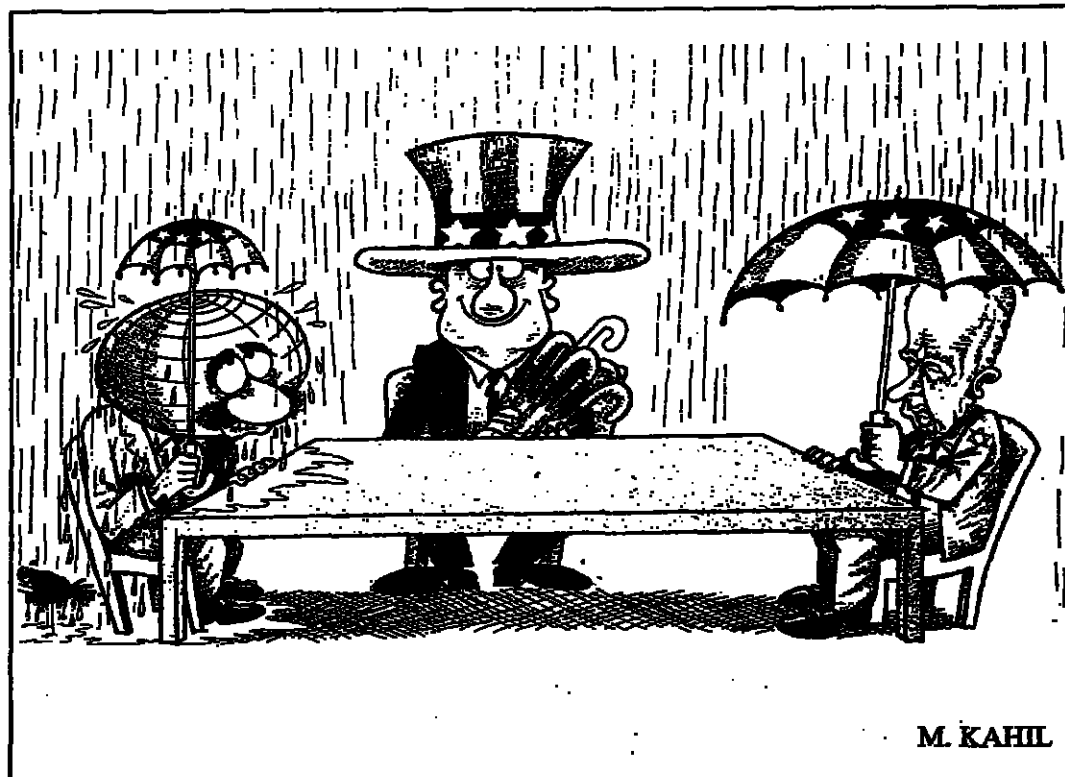
The Palestinians can then be regarded as aliens while the Geneva Convention, to which the U.S. adheres, considers them "protected inhabitants" in occupied territory and not aliens or deportables. This is the basis of Arab opposition to the "compromise".

Israel considers the arrangement with the U.S. a successful undertaking on its part to derail

the U.N. from forcing it to recognise its responsibilities and obligation as an occupying power in the occupied territories. Though this has been the strategic objective of successive Israeli governments, the massive deportation of more than 400 Palestinians brought into sharp focus the real cause for the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict.

Mr. Rabin's statement, asserting the right of Israel to deport, should have prompted the U.S. to insist on full compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 as a condition for the U.S. to resume the peace process.

By acquiescing to this political expedient but legally flawed compromise, however, the U.S. has severely damaged, perhaps irreparably, the peace process.



Peace process falters, but Arabs still seek settlement

By Ed Blanche
The Associated Press

DAMASCUS — Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians Dec. 17 put the U.S. sponsored Middle East peace talks in jeopardy and dumped a crisis in the lap of the Clinton administration.

But the problem may provide a catalyst for progress towards ending one of the world's most intractable conflicts — one which several sides already have powerful incentives to resolve.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's move incensed the Arab World and was highly embarrassing for the United States.

Yet, for the Arabs, Mr. Rabin's action was in one way beneficial. It alienated Israel in the international community and pushed the Americans into intervening to press the Jewish state into making concessions — as the Arabs had been demanding for months.

As the Israeli struggle to wriggle out the corner in which Mr. Rabin's miscalculation landed them, they lifted their ban on direct contacts with the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

With the Israelis on the defensive, the Arabs have sought to press their advantage.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, now on a Middle East swing to get the peace talks back on track, convinced the Israelis Feb. 1 to agree to take back 101 deportees now, and the

rest by the end of the year. That falls short of the U.N. Security Council's resolution calling for all the men be repatriated immediately. But the Israelis' characteristic retreat could be parlayed into further concessions.

The Palestinians say they will boycott the peace talks until all the deportees — alleged members of the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas — return to the Israeli occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Syria, Jordan and Lebanon are displaying growing impatience with Israel's intransigence and the United Nations' failure to enforce its resolution with the same resolve it has shown toward Iraq's Saddam Hussein.

Whether they will walk out if Mr. Christopher cannot pressure Israel to toe the line is open to question. They all have an interest in keeping the peace process going.

Syria, increasingly realigned with the West following the collapse of its Soviet mentor, cannot afford to jeopardise the political and economic benefits it hopes will come its way if the 45-year-old Arab-Israeli conflict is settled.

The Israelis are dangling the prospect of a separate treaty with Syria and a withdrawal from the Golan Heights, captured from Syria in 1967.

But after decades of portraying itself as the vanguard of the Palestinian cause and insisting on the return of all occupied Arab land, abandoning the Palestinians

would be political suicide for Syria's regime.

In Jordan, King Hussein insists that any settlement must be comprehensive.

On the face of it, the Palestinians are in the greatest jeopardy.

PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has staked everything on securing a settlement, even one that falls far short of the PLO's long held objective of an independent Palestinian homeland in the West Bank and Gaza.

The Israelis are prepared only to discuss limited autonomy for the occupied territories, with no guarantee of eventual independence. Radical Palestinians, such as Hamas, want the PLO to quit the talks.

Hamas and other Syrian based factions seek nothing less than Israel's destruction. Others, such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, will settle for negotiations for an independent homeland.

The Palestinian negotiators' failure to secure tangible changes in the occupied territories has bolstered the radicals' strength among the 1.7 million Palestinians there, undermining the PLO.

Sari Nusseibeh, a senior adviser to the PLO-controlled Palestinian delegation to the talks, noted that even before the deportations "public faith in the talks was wearing thin."

"Now, I'm sure the majority is against continuing. It puts a great burden on the PLO leadership,"

he said.

Still, many Palestinians feel that if they do not secure some sort of foothold now, even if it is limited autonomy, their hopes of gaining a homeland may be dashed forever.

The deportations thrust the fundamentalists to centre stage, further weakening Mr. Arafat and thus endangering Israel's hopes that it might be able to do a deal on its terms.

Mr. Arafat faces a dilemma. If he abandons the peace process, he hands the radicals a victory on a platter and effectively eliminates the PLO from the equation. If he continues to support negotiations, he must produce concrete results soon or risk further erosion of support in the occupied territories.

But there is a chance that Mr. Arafat, now seen by the Israelis as a better option than the fundamentalist Frankenstein they helped create, may yet profit from the crisis.

There appears to be a growing Israeli sentiment that talking to the PLO could boost the more moderate Palestinians and heighten the chances of a settlement.

Whether this will salvage the peace talks is unclear.

Mr. Rabin's deportations blunder has undermined his position in Israel and raised questions about whether he can retain the domestic authority to make the concessions the Arabs insist must be made if the talks are to succeed.

LETTERS

Too short a life to fight

To the Editor:

Israel has eaten most of the "carrot" offered by Washington, but this spoiled entity should taste, for a change, a whip of the "stick", the same American stick which left long-lasting, deep scars with the Iraqi people.

Successive American administrations which myopically believed their respective advent to power materialised solely on Jewry's shoulders have sunk in the Middle East political quagmire with no solution in the offing.

While the U.S. sought not to leave Iraq room for manoeuvre, and applied the Security Council resolution on the bodies of Iraqi children, it left the door open for Israeli interpretation of Resolution 799 on expellees. As if international norms are subject to interpretation or hegemony.

The remarks of U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher were ironic when he said that Israel's acceptance of a phased return of deportees was a "substantial compliance with Resolution 799."

The U.S.-monopolised world body certainly did not ask Iraq for a phased withdrawal from Kuwait. Nor did it allow the Arab Nation to find a solution to that crisis which could have been resolved without bloodshed and massive Arab capital flight.

So, Mr. Christopher, if you are in our midst to listen, we have talked too much over the past four decades. And your country's roving politicians know better the roots of the cause than anyone else. But if you are here to talk, then you are on the wrong end.

Arabs have heard enough and all you have to do is whisper to Israel.

The law is law and justice should prevail by the same yardstick everywhere in the world.

Violence breeds violence and injustice leads the suppressed to break the shackles and rebound. The civilised world should work towards stemming an eventual "armageddon" in the absence of evenhandedness and fairness.

We do not want further destructive wars. Life is too short for that.

Saad Hattar,
Amman.

A window of opportunity

To the Editor:

At the heart of today's modern political debates almost everywhere in the world lies the issue of human rights. It is evident that this matter had moved to global centre stage only in the last decade, and for very good reasons too.

Jordan was no exception to those countries of the world aspiring to defend the rights of its citizens and diligently working to preserve their individual dignity. There is ample evidence to suggest that this country has become a leader in this respect in the Arab World.

But, as is often the case, there is no lack of individuals who would blindly clutch to any moving wagon while clumsily claiming to be its main driving force. There are figures familiar to most, who give the impression that they draw support from all quarters of society and who, while declaring their lives had suddenly become devoted to the single matter of defending human rights, spare no time in giving public speeches and making their seemingly selfless interests known to all (especially the media). Fortunately, deeds speak louder than words, and the image of a human rights defender they so earnestly try to portray crumbles against the scrutiny of only an amateur observer.

For these impostors, human rights, deep in their minds, remains an alien thought, but nonetheless an indispensable opportunity to further their political or personal ends. In the reality of their views, the issue is seen as divisive, irrelevant and a source of factionation and destabilisation.

The sad fact is that some of those who muffled criticism in times past — or called for it for that matter — still hang on to that dim, short vision of the future. Their concept of human rights remains at best undefined and at worst distorted.

In sum, people have reason to be sceptical about the intentions — and perhaps the motives — of a handful of society's figures who have suddenly espoused the most noble cause of all, but whose careers are replete with visible shifts tailored to suit every political wind prevalent at the time.

Nabila Bandak,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Senate passes draft press law

(Continued from page 1)

here are no specified penalties. The House had voted to abolish this article.

The Senate also amended article 46 to ban members of the profession from receiving "financial assistance or gifts" from local or foreign groups unless the minister of information approves that.

The Senate's amendment corresponds with the government's version of the article which was amended by the Lower House to prevent journalists from receiving such aid at all, abolishing the phrase which allows journalists to receive assistance if the minister approves.

Ironically, Minister of Information Mahmoud Al Sharif argued against the government's view on the issue, telling senators that the minister should not be involved in this matter and supporting the House amendment.

Minister of State for Prime Ministry Affairs and Senator Ibrahim Izzeddine, who drafted the law when he was minister of information, voted in favour of

the Senate's amendment.

Earlier, the Senate amended article 6 item (d) of the law to give journalists the right to keep their sources of information secret unless ordered otherwise by a court of law during trial of cases pertaining to national security, attainment of justice and prevention of crime.

As originally passed by the House, the article would have forced journalists to divulge their sources to the judiciary, which senators said includes the general prosecutor.

The Senate's amendments to the controversial law, which was condemned by many journalists as oppressive, will now be reviewed by the Lower House which has the legal right to reject them. If the Senate stands by any amendments rejected by the House, a joint session of the two Houses will be held and the decision that is endorsed by a two-third majority will prevail.

The Senate consists of 40 members while the House includes 80 deputies.

Christopher comments irk Beirut

(Continued from page 1)

went to Damascus for talks with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam.

Mr. Rantisi was later quoted by several Beirut radio stations as saying after the pre-dawn meeting with Mr. Khaddam Tuesday that the redeployment "is not a problem. The problem is Israel's occupation of the south."

Lebanon's reassurances to Syria are a flat admission that the Beirut government feels its fledgling 42,000-strong army was not strong enough yet.

Israel occupies a self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon ostensibly as a buffer against cross-border raids on its northern flank. The zone covers 1,100 square kilometres, approximately one tenth of Lebanon.

Israeli shell Lebanon

Israeli and allied militia gunners shelled villages in South Lebanon Monday killing a U.N. peacekeeper and a civilian, secur-

ity sources said.

A Nepalese peacekeeper was killed and another seriously wounded when two mortar bombs fired by South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia gunners hit their post in Yater village, U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) spokesman Timur Goksel said.

Israeli forces and SLA militiamen lobbed dozens of shells near the villages of Kafra, Yater, Sid-diqine and Sribbine — areas where the Hizbollah group is active, the sources said.

A 38-year-old civilian was also killed and his sister, 30, was wounded when shells hit Yater, the sources added.

Israel asserted its forces were not responsible.

The UNIFIL casualties were the first this year, Mr. Goksel said. Some 180 UNIFIL soldiers have been killed since the 5,400-strong multinational force began its mandate in Lebanon in 1978.

Christopher pushes compromise

(Continued from page 1)

Palestinians were committed to pursuing peace but demand that Israel stop expelling people from the occupied territories.

Palestinian sources previously have said that their delegates would be willing to consider returning to the talks if a schedule for returning the evictees was determined and if Israel agreed not to use expulsions again.

Earlier, a senior Israeli official told American reporters in a breakfast briefing that his government wanted the United States to use "a light touch" in assisting the parties once they got back to the bargaining table.

"We need a bridge builder," he said, "but we have to negotiate ourselves."

The negotiations recessed in mid-December after Israel had made some headway in separate talks with Syria and Jordan on territorial and other disputes.

But the Palestinians found little that was acceptable in Israel's proposal for limited self rule on the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr. Christopher and Mr. Rabin agreed on Feb. 1 that the two-year exile terms of the expellees should be halved, and 101 of the Palestinians repatriated right away.

The deal, and the proposed appeal procedure, fall short of Palestinian demands for enforcement of U.N. Security Council Resolution 799 calling for immediate return of the expellees.

In Marj Al Zuhour, Lebanon, the Palestinian evictees said Tuesday Israel's offer of a phased return home was not acceptable even though Mr. Christopher said it was.

Abdul Aziz Rantisi, leader of the 396 men, said they would all leave their camp in south Leba-

non or none would.

"Our decision is clear: We refuse to return even if the return was in stages, even if it was within a week and even if the number was 395," Dr. Rantisi said at the tent camp.

Dr. Rantisi said Mr. Christopher had failed to convince the Arabs to return to the negotiating table before the evictees' fate was resolved.

"The proof is that no date has been set until this moment for the convening of the next round of negotiations," he said.

Dr. Rantisi urged the chief Palestinian negotiator in the talks to make no concessions when he met Mr. Christopher Tuesday.

He was he had twice tried to call Haidar Abdul Shafi, head of the Palestinian delegation, from a cellular telephone sneaked to the camp but could not reach him.

"I want to salute him for his stands and urge him not to take any positions not in line with the decisions of the deportees," he said.

In Damascus, four Palestinian groups Tuesday rejected the compromise proposals offered by Mr. Christopher.

A deal would legitimise further expulsions, they said in a statement.

They urged Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to join them in rejecting the compromise and asked Palestinian peace negotiators to withdraw from peace talks with Israel.

The groups — the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front and the Popular Struggle Front — said all expellees should go home immediately.

Kuwaiti women demand their rights

(Continued from page 1)

Earlier pleas with the interior minister got permission for husbands who left the emirate after the invasion to return, while others managed to find jobs with private companies for half the money they earned in government jobs before the invasion.

But the stigma and the identity crisis remains with the children who in many cases do not know who are not Kuwaitis like their others.

"When I told my five-year-old daughter she was Iraqi, she burst tears and ran to her room," said Ghanima Al Khudair.

S. Khudair, who is married to an Iraqi born in Kuwait, was optimistic the parliament was going to come through for the men.

There isn't enough interest in problems, we are women and men are next to nothing here," said S. Nasrallah, 42, said she

could not even find wives for her sons because they were bedouin. "Bedouin is like AIDS, but with AIDS you die and put an end to your suffering," she said.

According to the interior minister, Sheikh Ahmad Al Humoud Al Sabah, over 50,000 stateless Arabs live in the emirate, down from an estimated 200,000 before the Iraqi invasion.

Bedouins were the backbone of police and army, but very few of them were allowed back in their jobs after liberation because some joined the Iraqi Popular Army during the occupation.

The government says most of the bedouins have passports from neighbouring countries but do not want to produce them in hope of acquiring Kuwaiti citizenship.

Jassem Al Aoun, minister of labour and social affairs, promised the women he would help them bring their husbands back into the country regardless of their nationalities.

Iraq armed with will to survive

By Harish Chandola

BAGHDAD — The remembrance last week of the more than 400 people who perished in an American missile attack at Baghdad's Ameriyeh bomb shelter two years ago not only symbolised the suffering of the Iraqi people straining under international sanctions but also the will of the Iraqi nation to survive against all odds.

Outside, the two-metre thick concrete shell stood intact as it did on Jan. 17, 1991, when it was opened for the people of a west Baghdad middle-class suburb to take refuge in, specially at night when the American warplanes struck.

But inside, its pillar-held vast interior was all charred, and the smell of death had not left it even after two years.

On the burnt walls hung photographs of those incinerated in it, family-by-family: nine children of Ghada Qasim, nine family members of Eman Naef Ahmad, six of Balkis Hassani, six of Nawar Judi, six of Yahya Mohammad Mushed, five of Hamidiye Abid, and so on.

On that fateful day when two missiles tore through the seemingly impenetrable roof at four in the morning when all were asleep, it was the birthday of Eman Naef Ahmad, and the new white dress she did not get to wear formed the centrepiece of her martyred family's photographs.

Surviving family members sobbed as they lit candles on the ground under the pictures, and the sobs grew into a wail as they came out to sit under a canopy for a memorial service.

The canopy was put up because it had started raining and grew cold. Even the sky seemed unable to control its tears for the massacred innocents.

The spokesman of the American forces in the Gulf had described the air strike as a "pin-point bombing of a military target."

But when you looked up at the hole blasted through the concrete roof, shredding its reinforced iron bars, you wondered if a large locomotive had come crashing through it. It was certainly not a pin that had fallen through.

Then there was the deep, four-metre radius crater on the shelter floor.

No pinpoint ever took so many lives and wreaked such devastation.

The American satellites and planes bombing Baghdad for a whole month by then supported by some of the best surveillance technology must surely have seen women in their colourful clothes going in and coming out of the shelter daily. How could they have taken it for a military target?

For that matter, how could the 4,000 schools, from kindergartens to universities, bombed from north to south and east to west be taken for military targets? Or the 132 bridges, 180 oil refineries, pipelines and installations, 11 hospitals, scores of market places, museums, radio and television stations, power plants, etc., also destroyed in the bombing, taken for targets?

The body of Iraq was riddled with wounds all over.

As many as 110,000 air sorties had been flown against it, dropping 88,000 tonnes of bombs in 40 days.

Most of those wounds have now been healed, except those that are in the hearts of the people.

Ninety per cent of the destroyed educational institutions, all hospitals, radio and television stations and most bridges and highways have been rebuilt by the Iraqis themselves.

The gutted Adhamiya telephone exchange is fully functional again. I drove over the repaired and resurfaced main highway of Iraq for 600 kilometres, from the Jordan border to Baghdad.

Two years ago, it was riddled with bomb craters which swallowed whole cars carrying people fleeing Baghdad in the darkness of the night, often killing their occupants.

Of the destroyed major bridges over the Tigris in Baghdad, two — Al Jamhouria and Al Shobaa — have been repaired, and are again choked with traffic. Only the third, the July 14 Bridge, has yet to be reconstructed.

A number of ancient artefacts, depicting the precious heritage of Iraq, have been stolen and smuggled abroad, from bombed and destroyed museums of Maisan, Kufa, Basra and Baghdad. Artisans are repairing the damaged ones, like the first century B.C. marble statues of a princess and three warriors in elaborate headgear from Patra. Also receiving healing touches in their hands is a first century A.D. marble statue of Hercules, carrying a massive metal-studded mace. The night bombers of the Western world had tried to kill the Greek warrior god as he rested in an Iraqi museum.

Why this destruction of civilian targets? It must be to torture the Iraqi society, to break its will by convincing it that America and its allies have the power to inflict pain on it, when and where, and in the amount they want.

But the Iraqis are not beaten.

The writer, an Indian journalist, has just returned after a 12-day visit to Iraq. He contributed this article to the Jordan Times.

Rabbani

(Continued from page 1)

forward by Hezb-e-Islami were "negotiable." He declined to give details of the conditions.

Hezb-e-Islami has previously insisted that Mr. Rabbani step down, accusing him of coming to

power by rigging his election by an assembly of nationwide representatives last December.

It has demanded elections within one year and an interim government.

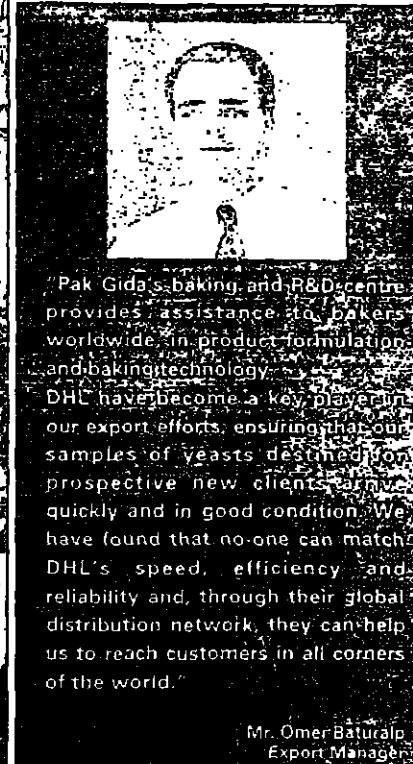
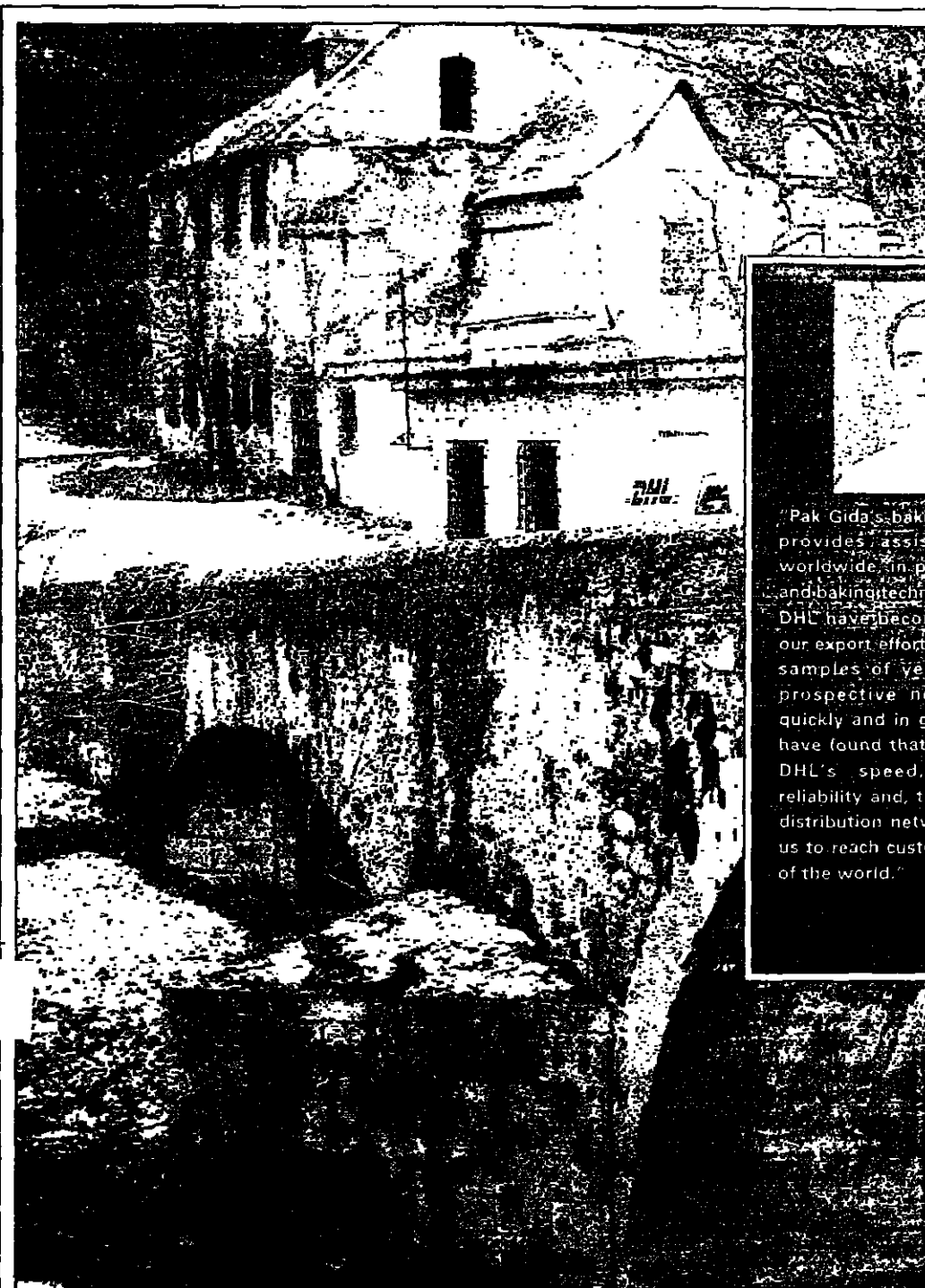
Interior Minister Ahmad Shah said Mr. Hekmatyar should accept the assembly's decision, end its blockade of the roads to

Kabul and hand over its heavy weapons to an authorised commission under international guarantees. He gave no details.

"If Hezb-e-Islami meets these conditions they will be included in the government," Mr. Shah said.

The fierce fighting over the last month had prevented Mr. Rabbani from naming a prime minister and a cabinet to govern Afghanistan during his two-year tenure, Mr. Shah said.

The cabinet must be approved by the 205-member parliament, chosen from the 1,300 delegates to December's assembly, but the fighting had prevented them from convening in Kabul.



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Jordan Times

Tracy Austin makes comeback Graf, Capriati pull out of Evert Cup

INDIAN WELLS, California (Agencies) — Tracy Austin, once a teen age phenom and now an old lady of 30, returned to tournament tennis Tuesday for the first time in four years.

Injuries forced her to retire in 1984, and a car accident curtailed a previous comeback in 1989.

"I've prepared as best as I can," she said Monday. "It's a nice feeling to know I've done everything I can."

Austin says this isn't a full fledged comeback. She has no tournaments lined up past this week's Evert Cup, which no one expects her to win.

However, the path to the finals of the \$76,000 tournament got easier since both Steffi Graf and Jennifer Capriati withdrew because of injuries. That leaves Mary Joe Fernandez, ranked seventh in the world, as the top seed and biggest name.

Retired tennis great Chris Evert tried unsuccessfully to entice Monica Seles and Martina Navratilova, who met in a three-set final in Paris Sunday, to play in the tournament carrying her name.

Seles, who had already turned down an offer to play in the Evert Cup once, would not accept Evert's call and the 36-year-old Navratilova, who beat Seles in Paris, cited fatigue from three consecutive tournaments on two different continents.

Austin hasn't had a world ranking since 1983, when she was ninth. She burst on the scene in

1977 as a 14 year old with a two-handed backhand and ferocious groundstrokes.

Her career included several firsts: The youngest player to win the U.S. Open at age 16 in 1979; ending Chris Evert's 125 match clay court winning streak in 1979; becoming the then youngest athlete to reach \$1 million in career earnings at age 17 in 1980.

Gone are the braces, pigtails, pinafore dresses and Jack Kramer wooden racket that spawned thousands of Austin wannabes.

Not everything has changed, though. Fans will recognize Austin's game — she'll be camped at the baseline swinging her patented two-handed backhand. "They'll say, 'that's the same old game I remember,'" Austin said, laughing. "You won't see a serve and volleyer."

Also gone are many of Austin's opponents from the late 1970s and early '80s.

Evert, Andrea Jaeger and Hana Mandlikova have retired. Martina Navratilova, Pam Shriver and Zina Garrison Jackson skipped this event.

That leaves of new — and much younger — faces in the locker room. Austin's first-round opponent in the Evert Cup is Renae Stubbs, a 21-year-old Australian who still was dreaming of a pro-career when Austin dominated the game.

Austin retired in February 1984 because of recurring neck and back injuries. She did not play

singles in another tour event until March 7, 1989, at the Virginia Slims of Indian Wells.

Sampras pulls out, Washington, Gilbert advance

Top seed and world number two Pete Sampras withdrew from the \$300,000 men's tennis tournament here Monday with a stress fracture of the right ankle that may sideline him for up to two months.

In first-round action on the court, third seed Maliwa Washington beat fellow American Doug Flach 6-4, 7-6 (7-3) and fifth seed Brad Gilbert struggled a bit before defeating Italy's Renzo Furlan 6-3, 7-6 (7-5).

But the two winners had more to say after their matches about the recently chosen U.S. Davis Cup team — Washington unhappy that he was not chosen and Gilbert grateful he was.

Sampras told a press conference he suffered an apparent stress fracture of the right ankle and was heading home to Tampa, Florida, to rest it.

Gilbert, a semifinalist in this event last year, said Sampras was suffering from the injury of the '90s.

"In the '80s it was knee injuries. Now it's part of the new crowd with Goran Ivanisevic, Aaron Krickstein and Sampras suffering from it."

U.S. Davis Cup team confident

NEW YORK (R) — Though spurned by the four superstars who won him the Davis Cup last year, U.S. Captain Tom Gorman still feels good about his all-teen team's chances next month in their first-round match in Australia.

"I'm confident that we can win," Gorman told Reuters in a phone interview from his Palm Springs, California, home Monday.

On Friday, U.S. Davis Cup officials announced Brad Gilbert, David Wheaton and the doubles pair of Jim Grabb and Richey Reneberg would play for the United States in the March 26-28 matches on the Kooyong Club grass courts in Melbourne.

Those names hardly rank with last year's winning team, but world number one Jim Courier, number two Pete Sampras and Wimbledon champion Andre Agassi all turned Gorman down. The fourth member of last year's team, John McEnroe, is currently not playing and had announced he would not be available.

Michael Chang and Ivan Lendl also turned down preliminary inquiries.

Gilbert, 31, has a 10-3 Davis Cup singles record. Wheaton, 23, Grabb, 28, and Reneberg, 27, will be making their Cup debuts. "I know the players are very, very excited and are going to be very dedicated to go down there and win," Gorman said. "They are confident they can do it and so am I."

"1990 was 1992," Gorman said. "There might be some similarity to the U.S. Olympic basketball 'dream team.' They may never get back together again and the team we had in 1991 may or may not play together again."

Last week Agassi had indicated he was troubled by the travel demands of a trip to Australia in the middle of a cluttered playing schedule.

"I'm disappointed they said no," Gorman said. "As I told them, I was disappointed, but I also respect why they weren't going and their reasons."

None of them, however, said no to the possibility of playing future cup matches this year, according to Gorman.

The U.S.-Australia winner will meet the winner of the Brazil-Italy match.

Though Gilbert is only ranked 27th and Wheaton 50th, both have had good success through their career against their expected Australian foes Wally Masur, Mark Woodforde or even Pat Cash.

Gilbert has a 6-2 career record against Masur. The two have split two matches on grass, with Gilbert winning at Wimbledon two years ago and Masur winning at last year's Wimbledon. Gilbert is 1-1 against Woodforde but has lost five of eight times against Cash.

Wheaton, a 1991 Wimbledon semifinalist, is 2-0 against both Masur and Woodforde and has never played Cash.

Grabb and Reneberg lost in the Wimbledon final last year before winning the U.S. Open title.

Bowe visits Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Heavyweight boxing champion Riddick Bowe saw hungry Somalis in this devastated and filthy capital Monday, but the one thing that convinced him U.S. soldiers had it rough was hot soda.

"You know its hard when these guys are drinking hot soda," Bowe said while brushing away flies during lunch with Marines and army troops.

Hardened soldiers grinned like schoolboys and posed with Bowe during his four-hour visit to Mogadishu with Americare, a U.S. relief agency.

The WBA and IBF champion also visited a feeding center operated by the Irish Relief Agency Concern. Tiny Somali children sang for him, and he gave his cap to an emaciated 13-year-old girl who smiled with pleasure.

"I'm very happy to see him and we are happy to welcome him," said Abdi Mohamed Abdi Aodon, whose arms were barely thicker than Bowe's thumb. "He looks like he's really interested to see us."

An Irish nurse showed Bowe around the center and introduced him to Abdi, 23-year-old Valerie Place, was slain by gunmen later in the day in a roadside ambush about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Mogadishu.

Bowe had left Somalia when news of her killing reached Mogadishu.

John Riehl, executive director of Americare, said Bowe paid \$94,000 to charter a flight from New York to Nairobi that also carried \$1.8 million worth of medicine to be distributed in Somalia and Kenya.

Bowe said he also wanted to give a morale boost to U.S. troops securing Somalia so relief agencies can distribute food and medicine to millions in need.

"Perhaps I can make the troops feel a little better," he said after landing in a C-130 transport plane, accompanied by his wife Judy and an entourage of publicists, photographers and bodyguards.

He put on a camouflage flak jacket and helmet, commenting "it's heavy," and was asked for the first of several hundred times when he would fight Lennox Lewis, the WBC champion.

"I guess when he gets enough heart," was the stock reply, always drawing laughs. Bowe said he expected to fight former champion Evander Holyfield, who he defeated last year to win the title, in a rematch in late June.

Bowe was to stop at a refugee center in Kenya later Monday, then go to Nairobi. Before heading home, he was scheduled to stop in Rome to meet the Pope, a member of his entourage said.

Soccer is latest victim of Albanian poverty

TIRANA (AP) — Albania's ad-jacent poverty has undermined one of the last diversions left for its beleaguered citizens: soccer.

A strike by referees over what they say is their abysmally low pay has halted national championship play in mid season. Poorly paid players threaten to join them.

As sheep grazed on the country's idle soccer fields, representatives of the government, referees and sports groups met Monday to try to end the week old walkout.

There are fears that the strike could jeopardize Albania's standing with the European Football Association, UEFA.

"We are conscious of the poverty Albania is going through in this transition period, but our situation is very desperate," said referee Higmjet Kuka.

Like every other segment of Albanian society, public sports organizations are feeling the crunch as the newly democratic government struggles with the legacy of decades of brutal Stalinist rule and economic mismanagement.

Soccer referees say they simply cannot survive on their current pay, the equivalent of about \$3 a game, and a per diem of \$1.20 when they must travel. All of them work part time and do not get regular salaries.

They have asked the government for a 25 per cent raise, to no

avail so far.

One well-known Albanian soccer player, Alfons Muca, said the strike is justified and players might soon join it.

"All of us are on the eve of a strike," he said. "Our pay only amounts to \$12 a month, equal to the lowest salary in our country."

The average salary in Albania, a mostly rural Balkan country of 3.2 million people, is \$20 to \$25 a month.

Although players are poorly paid, soccer has been a ticket out of Albania for those talented enough to catch the attention and visa sponsorship — of foreign teams. Local officials estimate that about 300 Albanians now play abroad.

"The football federation has become an emigration office," complained the national team coach, Dejkuh Direct, before Albania's 2-1 loss to Northern Ireland last week in a World Cup qualifier.

Northern Ireland's soccer chiefs later protested to FIFA, the International Soccer Federation, about conditions for the game.

Team officials said they arrived in Tirana to find their hotel could accommodate only half their party. They said others were taken to another hotel that had cardboard windows, no running water and inadequate toilet facilities.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

1994 Tour de France starts in Lille

LILLE (AP) — Next year's Tour de France will start in the Northern city of Lille, organizers of the cycling race announced Monday. Jean Marie Le Blanc, the Tour de France director, made the announcement after the signing of an agreement with local officials. The 1994 edition of the world's most prestigious cycling race will begin with a short time trial on July 2.

Italy choose Vierchowod and Tassotti

ROME (R) — Italy, weakened by injuries and suspension, Monday named veteran defenders Mauro Tassotti and Pietro Vierchowod in their team for Wednesday's World Cup tie with Portugal. Sampdoria's Vierchowod is drafted into the heart of defense to replace suspended AC Milan sweeper Franco Baresi.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
©1992 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

NO ESCAPE

North-South vulnerable. East deals.

NORTH
♠ K Q 8
♥ 6 2
♦ K Q J 8 4
♣ 8 6 3

EAST
♠ A J 10
♥ K 7 5 4
♦ A 9 5
♣ A 5 2

SOUTH
♠ 7 4 3
♥ A K Q J 10 3
♦ 6 3
♣ K Q

The bidding:
East South West North
1 NT 3♥ Pass 4♥
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of ♠
In the Old Country they had a saying: If you drink the water you die. East never realized what that meant until this hand came along.

East-West were playing weak no-trump opening bids. South's jump showed a good hand and a suit of substance, so North's raise to game was certainly reasonable.

With routine defense South

would have coasted home at his contract of four hearts. Suppose that East took the ace and returned a club. Declarer would win, draw trumps and force out the ace of diamonds, then get back to dummy with a spade to take a spade discard on a high diamond.

East scotched those ideas by winning the ace of clubs and shifting to the ten of spades. Since East was marked with the ace of spades, that meant there was no side entry to the diamonds. However, South found an elegant ruse.

Declarer drew four rounds of trumps, discarding two diamonds from the table, and cashed the king of clubs. Next came a diamond to the king, which East ducked as a matter of course. Declarer now ruffed a club in hand and then led another diamond to the queen.

East won the ace, but was trapped in an endplay. Left with nothing but cards in the pointed suits, East either could cash the ace of spades, which would limit declarer to only one loser in that suit, or else lead a diamond, thereby permitting declarer to discard a spade. Either way, declarer would lose only one trick in each side suit.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 24, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Sure as you may be of your position, may be it's really wisest to bite your tongue this morning. Words have a way of popping out in the most unfortunate way during Moon's square to Mars.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Start the day off making contact with those at a distance but soon you find a private anxiety causes you to put efforts in that direction.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Your intuitions show you the way to enjoy yourself early while soon you find that an acquaintance brings some tension that requires undivided attention.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Have an interesting time early with a fascinating associate but soon you find an outside condition is disturbing and it requires your attention.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You early see ways to get more benefits from duties you perform but then sidestep a newcomer who would make changes in your way of life.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Make appointments early for recreations during the coming time; then do something that can cause an estrangement with your close attachment or loved one.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Enjoy being with attachment

early in the day but later you find a condition arises at home that can be upsetting if you allow it to get under your skin.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Be off early with a good friend to a place of lofty ideas but then you find that surrounding conditions can cause you to spend time handling them.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You early see what a bigwig can do to help add to your material success but this afternoon brings a costly pleasure you would be wise to avoid.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You have early good ideas for your growth; development while tonight finds tensions beneath your own roof that require diplomatic handling.

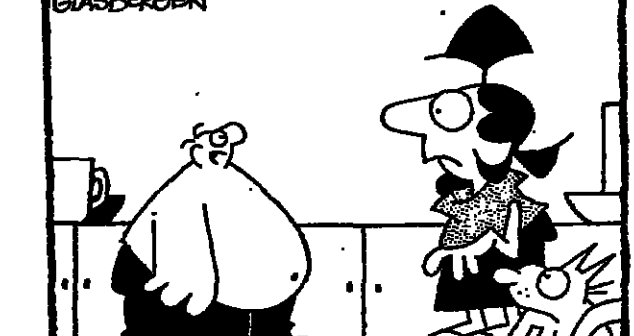
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You have a hunch that is good for your future well-being at breakfast while later you find a usually congenial comrade difficult to understand.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Decide early future relations with both friends and partners while in the afternoon you find money matters perplexing, needing attention.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Early you see ways to update uplift, your environmental conditions but soon after you are discontented, nothing seems to go as you had expected.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Glasbergen

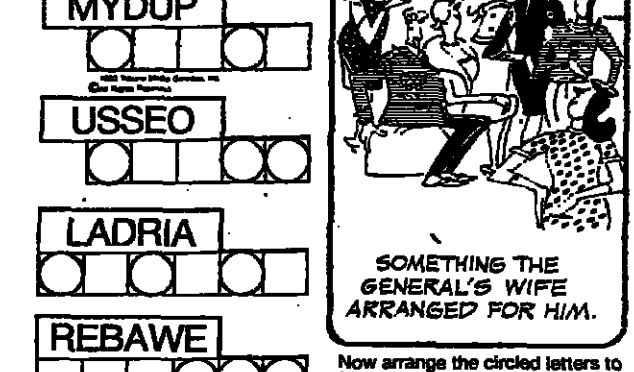


"My diet worked! I lost eight pounds!"

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

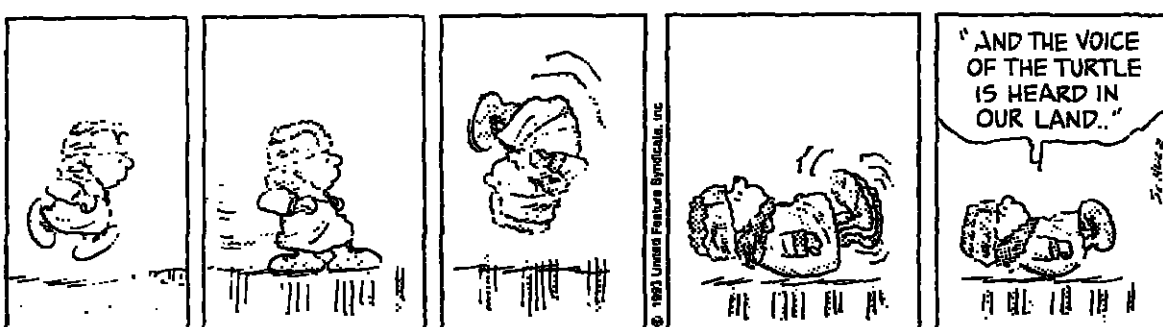
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



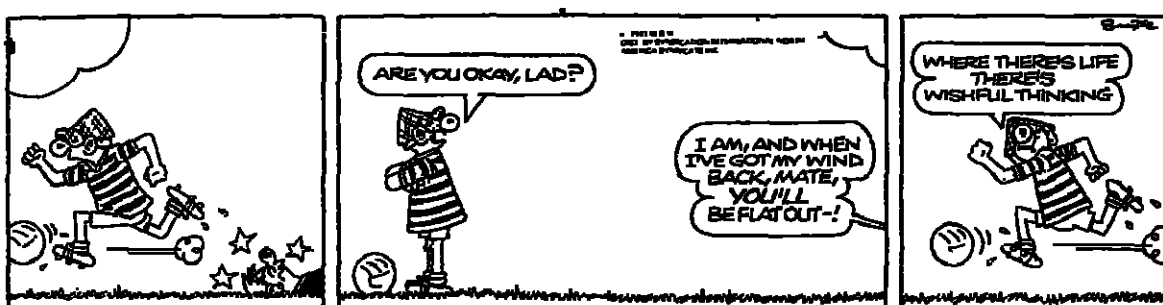
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: A " " (Answers tomorrow)
Jumbles: VISOR CRANK SUBTLY OCELOT
Answer: What the Texas cattlemen sought on Wall Street—LIVE STOCK

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Taiwan economy slows

Clinton vows to promote technology to help economic growth in U.S.

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's gross domestic product (GNP) growth slowed to 6.06 per cent last year from 7.24 per cent in 1991 as the island's export boom, the main engine of growth, slowed.

"Growth in exports," said Hsu Wen-Yen, a senior official at the Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics. But the economy showed signs of picking up again in the fourth quarter of 1992, when GNP grew 9.7 per cent from a year earlier compared to 5.16 per cent in the third quarter, the directorate said. It predicted GNP growth would rise further to 6.35 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

MOUNTAIN VIEW, California (R) — President Bill Clinton, on the second and final day of a campaign-style trip to the west coast to whip up public support for his economic revival proposals.

Mr. Clinton said a priority would be to link businesses, schools, libraries, hospitals and government agencies across the United States by computerised "information highways."

Speaking to employees at Silicon Graphics, which makes high-performance visual computing systems and is one of the leading U.S. companies, Mr. Clinton said he was determined to keep the United States "on the cutting

edge of change."

His visit to the plant came on the second and final day of a campaign-style trip to the west coast to whip up public support for his economic revival proposals.

It was his second such trip since Wednesday night when he outlined the package — which includes higher taxes, spending cuts and job growth incentives — in a speech to Congress.

Before winding up his western swing, Mr. Clinton was to visit the Everett, Washington, facilities of the Boeing Co., which announced last week it will eliminate 28,000 jobs in the next 18 months because of slumping orders from airlines.

The technology programme announced Monday includes:

— Permanent extension of a research and experimentation tax credit "to sustain incentives for the rework so essential to new developments"

— Investment in a national information infrastructure and establishment of a task force working with the private sector to design a policy that will ensure

rapid introduction of new communication technology

— Accelerating investment in advanced manufacturing technologies that promote U.S. industrial competitiveness

— Reestablishing the technological leadership and competitiveness of the American auto industry

— Improving technology for education and training and

— Investing in energy-efficient federal buildings.

The president was accompanied by Vice President Al Gore, who took the lead in outlining the new policy and will play a key role in overseeing administration efforts to encourage and promote innovative, leading-edge industries.

Utilising the television talk-show format common to his 1992 campaign and early presidency, Mr. Clinton perched on a stool and held a wireless microphone as he and Mr. Gore chatted informally with the high-technology workers.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Gore saw examples of the innovation they want to promote during a tour of

the Silicon Graphics plant that involved some of the electronics wizardry has made the firm one of the fastest growing U.S. companies.

But that is not the case with many firms in California, which is home to many large defence contractors and has been mired for three years in a recession made worse by cutbacks in U.S. military spending.

With more than 1.4 million people out of work, the state's unemployment rate hovers at 9.5 per cent — well above the U.S. average.

Mr. Clinton singled out Japan for criticism over its trade surplus with America, saying he would continue to press Tokyo to open its markets to foreign goods.

"It is the only nation with which we have a persistent and unchanging structural deficit," Mr. Clinton said.

"What we have to do is to try to continue to help more companies to figure out how to do business there and keep pushing them to open their markets," he said. "I don't want to close American markets to Japanese products."

Financial Markets

Jordan Times

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	Open	Close	High	Low
Sterling Pound	1.4571	1.4565		
Deutsche Mark	1.6247	1.6183		
Swiss Franc	1.4870	1.4557		
French Franc	5.4870	5.4930**		
Japanese Yen	116.35	116.78		
European Currency Unit	1.1935	1.1918**		

USD Per STG

European Currency Unit

Source: Reuters

Date: 23/2/1993

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.00	3.18	3.12	3.43
Sterling Pound	6.19	6.06	5.78	5.59
Deutsche Mark	8.49	8.16	7.74	7.17
Swiss Franc	5.45	5.36	5.13	4.88
French Franc	11.50	11.50	10.50	9.35
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.25	3.15	3.12
European Currency Unit	9.43	9.37	9.00	8.43

Interbank bid rates for months exceeding 1 U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	329.55	6.35	Silver	3.58	.080

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Date: 23/2/1993

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6870	0.6890
Sterling Pound	0.9999	1.0049
Deutsche Mark	0.4240	0.4261
Swiss Franc	0.4622	0.4645
French Franc	0.1249	0.1255
Japanese Yen	0.5577	0.5906
Dutch Guilder	0.3766	0.3785
Swedish Krona	0.0910	0.0915
Italian Lira	0.0438	0.0440
Belgian Franc	0.02056	0.02066

Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7930	1.8120
Lebanese Lira	0.038166	0.040535
Saudi Riyal	0.1829	0.1840
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2230	2.2450
Qatari Riyal	0.1861	0.1873
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7520	1.7720
UAE Dirham	0.1861	0.1873
Greek Drachma	0.31086	0.31785
Cypriot Pound	1.40145	1.41934

Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	21/2/1993 Close	22/2/1993 Close
All-Share	169.07	190.04
Banking Sector	131.72	132.67
Insurance Sector	213.64	214.37
Industry Sector	267.68	268.66
Services Sector	251.77	253.19

December 31, 1992 = 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for trading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession in the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

U.S. dollar	Canadian dollar
1.2570/75	1.6260/70
1.8295/305	1.4990/5000
33.48/52	5.5200/50
1578/1583	116.75/80
116.75/80	7.6300/400
6.9350/450	6.2550/650
1.4515/25	1.4515/25
ounce of gold	\$329.45/\$329.85

Oman to start gold production next year

DUBAI (R) — Oman will start producing gold from the beginning of 1994 at a rate of 500 kilogramme a year, the Oman News Agency quoted an official as saying. It quoted Mohammad Bin Hussein Al Yafei, director-general of the minerals department at the petroleum and minerals ministry, as saying that by 1995 gold production in Oman would reach 750 kilogrammes. It said Mr. Yafei was speaking in an interview with the local newspaper Al Watan. He said the Oman Minerals Company would start the project in the beginning of next year by exploiting estimated reserves of 650,000 tonnes of sulphide copper deposits with five per cent gold content.

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADING VOLUME	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ABU DHABI NATIONAL BANK	12,525	122.750	131.000
BANK OF JORDAN	1,656	22.350	22.250
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	18,138	3.700	3.750
THE HOUSING BANK	62,959	3.740	3.720
JORDANIAN NATIONAL BANK	11,538	2.550	2.550
ABU DHABI INVESTMENT BANK	22,775	2.550	2.550
JORDANIAN INVESTMENT BANK	22,184	4.680	4.660
WOLFGANG BANK	12,174	4.680	4.660
JORDANIAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	11,623	5.000	5.000
DETA KHALA SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	48,077	5.000	5.000
ABU DHABI BANK FOR INVESTMENT	143,457	1.880	1.740
ABU DHABI BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	6,824	3.540	3.430
ABU DHABI BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	2,850	2.850	2.850
JORDANIAN FRENCH INSURANCE	38,426	1.810	1.840
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	30,130	2.750	2.730
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	50	0.980	0.990
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	5,678	1.700	1.700
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	38,746	4.490	4.500
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	3,781	1.780	1.770
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	12,312	6.010	6.010
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	5,423	1.180	1.220
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	13,765	1.350	1.370
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	21,358	2.550	2.550
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	6,645	2.470	2.400
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	36,349	1.880	1.880
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	9,932	9.950	9.950
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	19,425	9.950	9.950
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	38,393	6.430	6.430
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	50,823	7.750	7.750
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	11,782	7.750	7.750
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	40,845	11.000	11.100
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	235,297	1.410	1.320
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	46,403	12.640	12.650
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	17,080	1.050	1.070
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	12,257	1.980	2.010
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	33,333	6.610	6.610
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	13,920	5.740	5.800
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	17,597	1.010	1.060
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	20,422	4.230	4.240
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	16,211	1.900	2.860
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	51,408	1.710	1.710
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	10,395	1.210	1.200
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	47,942	5.800	6.030
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	124,947	6.200	6.200
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	15,665	4.390	4.400
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	14,439	1.000	1.000
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	16,748	1.960	1.930
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	51,761	5.470	5.430
GRAND TOTAL	3,635,282		
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET	35750		
TRADING VOLUME IN THE PARALLEL MARKET	34783		

Unilever profits top £2b

LONDON (R) Anglo-Dutch food-to-detergents group Unilever PLC/N.V. Tuesday said pre-tax profits for 1992 topped the £2 billion level.

The pre-tax figure was up 13 per cent including exchange rate benefits to £2,023 billion (£2.96 billion) from £1,792 billion (£2.51 billion) mainly due to further gains in consumer food products such as ice cream and personal care products.

Sales were also higher at £24.7 billion (\$35.97 billion) against £23.16 billion (\$33.73 billion) last year.

Operating margins were unchanged at 8.6 per cent with a small decline in Europe offset by improvements elsewhere.

"This overall progress contains a number of contrasting performances as our business faced varying trading conditions in different regions," Unilever said in a statement.

Consumer products posted higher volumes during the year but due to lack of growth in industrial markets and the effect of disposals, total sales growth was constrained.

Profits rose in food businesses, notably ice cream, and Unilever said that in the Mediterranean area good results confirmed prospects for growth.

In detergents, profits were lower because of heightened competition and increased marketing spending.

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S. Arabia going ahead with oil expansion plan

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, is going ahead with a \$20 billion plan to expand oil facilities and boost crude output capacity to 10 million barrels per day (b/d).

It had agreed earlier this month to cut production by 500,000 b/d from March to eight million b/d as part of OPEC-wide output curbs to shore up prices.

But Gulf oil and financial sources said this did not affect the kingdom's determination to boost capacity.

"They are looking at the 21st century. They think higher capacity is necessary for them to maintain their pre-eminence and guarantee their economic future," one Gulf source said.

Saudi Arabia sees temporary production curbs as necessary and believes world oil demand will surge in the long-term to justify the huge investment planned over the next five years, the sources said.

A senior official of the state-owned oil giant Saudi-Aramco said energy demand could more than double in the next 40 years, driven primarily by world population and economic growth.

Speaking at an economic conference in Bahrain last week, Ali

Seflan, Aramco's head of corporate planning, said although oil's share of energy demand might decline slightly "it will remain the most desirable source for transport fuels and chemical derivatives."

And while oil reserves are declining elsewhere, Saudi Arabia sits on a quarter of global oil reserves. With a 10 million b/d capacity it could continue producing into the second half of the 21st century, he said.

Saudi officials deny that a 1994 target has been set for achieving the 10 million b/d capacity, saying their plans are flexible and depend on market outlook. They say only that new capacity will be ready by the mid-1990s.

Officials dismiss reports that the kingdom, suffering increasing budget deficits, was finding it difficult to finance Aramco's expansion plans.

But a comment by Finance Minister Mohammad Abul Khail at the same conference in Bahrain raised speculation that Aramco may go to world markets for additional financing.

Referring to Aramco's massive investment programme, he said: "As you are aware, most regional

oil companies are entering world capital markets to finance these new investments."

Aramco's domestic expansion plans so far have been financed domestically and foreign loans used to finance overseas operations or projects such as the expansion of its oil tanker fleet, they added.

Sheikh Abul Khail also raised the prospect of private participation in the country's oil industry outside crude production, which remains a state preserve.

Virtually all oil-related industry has so far been confined to state enterprises but Sheikh Abul Khail said the role of private investment, both foreign and domestic, will grow.

This was because "the petro-industrial sector will be growing both in extent and diversity (and) because there are also new and very promising opportunities in industries that are indirectly related to the petroleum industry," he added.

He mentioned in particular production plans for environmentally-friendly oil products and companies that service the oil industry directly or indirectly.

Iran hopes for stable riyal after devaluation

NICOSIA (R) — Iran hopes to keep the riyal stable by controlling public sector demand for hard cash after the currency is devalued next month, Economy and Finance Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh said.

Mr. Nourbakhsh predicted a foreign exchange surplus after a largely unified party system takes effect on March 21, the start of the Iranian new year.

"Next year the government will sell all its foreign exchange revenue on the market and it seems that total demand of the public and private sectors for foreign exchange will be much less than the volume on the market," he said.

His interview with the official news agency IRNA was published in Tehran's Jomhuri Eslami newspaper.

Iran's budget law for next year predicts \$17 billion of oil revenue. Mr. Nourbakhsh said \$2.5 billion of non-oil export revenue would also be offered on the market.

"The budget sets total public sector foreign expenditures at less than \$7.5 billion.... we predict \$2.3 billion surplus hard currency on the market, which will meet extra demands by the private sector," he said.

He said Iran expected to have repaid \$5 billion of an accumulated \$30 billion in short-term foreign credits by the end of the current year and would continue

paying as the obligations matured in coming years. He gave no figure for next year.

The foreign exchange reform is a key part of President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's plan to revive Iran's war-damaged economy.

The government would stop supplying most public agencies and priority industries dollars at the concessionary rates of about 70 and 600 riyals, leaving them to buy their needs at a floating rate currently about 1,500 riyals.

A dollar fetches about 1,580 riyals on the black market.

Economists predict a sharp rise in prices as a result of the devaluation and voice doubts about the government's ability to prevent the riyal from sliding further.

Mr. Nourbakhsh said that the budget law would force public agencies to cut sharply foreign exchange expenditures by restricting their riyal allocations.

Mr. Nourbakhsh said the budget law restricted the riyal allocations of public agencies, forcing them into sharp cuts in foreign exchange expenditures.

Apart from defence and basic foods, fuel and medicine imports — which will get a total \$3.8 billion at subsidised rates — other public sector agencies will be allocated only 1,000 riyals for each dollar of their hard cash needs, he said.

"We are very hopeful about the success of this policy because we think that we can prevent a sharp rise in prices by abundant supply (of hard currency) and controlling the demand of government agencies at a set level," Mr. Nourbakhsh said.

Four banks sue big Kuwaiti firm on loan default

MANAMA (R) — Four banks are suing one of Kuwait's biggest corporate concerns, Yusuf Ahmed Al Ghanim, for defaulting on loans, a banking source said Monday.

"There has been a loan outstanding since before the Gulf crisis. We did not make any attempts to ask for our money back until the crisis was over," he said, adding that when the war ended in 1991 the company was not forthcoming.

He confirmed many of the details reported Monday in the Nicosia-based Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), which said four banks had a total of \$45 million in loans and interest due from Al Ghanim.

The banks were named as the Netherlands' ASH-Ammo N.V. Bank of Tokyo Ltd, Bahrain-based Gulf International Bank and London-based United Bank of Kuwait. All have substantial interests in the Gulf but are based outside Kuwait.

The banking source was unable to provide details on the legal action but MEES said the banks had lodged a petition with English courts earlier in February to wind up the Kuwaiti concern.

The MEES report said a London court was due to hear their petition on March 24.

As agents for the American giant General Motors Corp. Al Ghanim runs one of the biggest car operations in Kuwait, whose customers can buy on credit.

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U.S. informs NATO Bosnia airdrops to start in days

BRUSSELS (R) — The United States has told NATO it will start to parachute relief supplies to tens of thousands of people in Bosnia cut off from aid within the next few days, alliance sources said Tuesday.

NATO's military authorities were also looking at ways of supporting the U.S. relief effort, perhaps by making airfields available or using alliance surveillance planes to monitor the operation, the sources told Reuters.

Washington announced its decision to begin the airdrops in a memo to the 16-nation Western alliance, the sources said.

"The Americans are going to start the drops in the next few days, in places where aid has not got through in Bosnia," said one source, who asked not to be identified.

In Geneva, a U.N. spokeswoman welcomed the U.S. decision, which has not yet been announced officially, to parachute relief supplies into eastern Bosnia, where 100,000 Muslims are said to be facing starvation.

"Anything that gets food to the people is worth trying," Sylvia Foa, spokeswoman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told a news briefing.

A NATO spokesman would say only that the United States was considering such an option. He refused to speculate on whether NATO could be involved.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to give more details of the operation when he meets NATO foreign ministers in Brussels Friday.

The UNHCR, which leads U.N. relief operations in former

Yugoslavia, had raised the idea of dropping food and medical supplies to isolated eastern enclaves in talks with donor countries over several months, Ms. Foa said.

Rugged terrain, the potential danger of relief aircraft being shot at and the possible need for reinforcement by ground troops had ruled out the airdrop option so far, she added.

Two U.N. aid convoys entered eastern Bosnia Tuesday and headed for the blockaded Muslim towns of Gorazde and Tuzla in a test of Serb promises to cooperate with relief efforts.

About 70,000 local people and refugees in Gorazde have been without outside help since mid-January because Serb forces refused to let convoys cross their checkpoints.

The UNHCR suspended aid deliveries briefly last week because convoys were halted by Serb fighters while Muslim authorities in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo staged a protest boycott of U.N. humanitarian relief.

U.S. officials said in Washington Monday that President Bill Clinton has decided to go ahead with the aid drops, but that he was consulting with the United Nations and Western leaders before making the announcement.

U.S. Navy warplanes, based on the Mediterranean, are expected to protect the aid flights. NATO sources said U.S. C-130 transport aircraft flying from major bases in Germany would probably be used to make the drops.

NATO surveillance planes, which are monitoring a U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia from positions above Hungary and the Adriatic, could be used to warn

the carrier-based fighters of any attack.

Germany has welcomed the U.S. plan.

Britain welcomes and is considering helping United States plans for aid airdrops into eastern Bosnia, a Foreign Office spokesman said Tuesday.

"They asked for our support and they asked for our participation," the British spokesman said.

He said the request from Washington was received Monday night and Britain was considering how best it could help the effort.

"We have warmly welcomed and support their intention to step up contributions to humanitarian relief efforts through airdrops to communities in special need notably in eastern Bosnia as supplement to the main airlift and road convoy operations," the Foreign Office said in a statement.

Turkish Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel said Tuesday his country would take part in U.S.-led airdrops to get relief supplies to isolated Bosnian Muslims.

"If airdrops to assist inaccessible regions in Bosnia-Herzegovina are decided on, Turkey will take part," Anatolian News Agency quoted Mr. Demirel as saying.

Meanwhile the latest convoys sent by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from Belgrade hoped to reach their destinations later Tuesday despite heavy snowfalls which made Bosnia's road treacherous.

Sarajevo was quiet overnight but Croatian radio said defence lines around the town of Karlo-



The U.N. Security Council votes unanimously to establish a war crimes tribunal on ex-Yugoslavia. The tribunal will deal with those allegedly responsible, since 1991, for serious violations of international humanitarian law in the Balkans (AFP photo)

Russian defence minister marks Armed Forces Day; warns of subversion

MOSCOW (R) — Defence Minister Pavel Grachev accused nationalist dissident officers of trying to undermine the Russian army and win power in the country.

In a television interview to mark Armed Forces Day Tuesday, he said the high command would not allow the military to be used for political purposes.

"They want to shake up the army, blow it up from inside to achieve their well-known ambitions," Mr. Grachev said.

"These people, striving for power, should understand once and for all: Any attempts to draw the armed forces into the political struggle are criminal and fraught with danger."

Mr. Grachev, whose interview was shown late Monday and re-broadcast Tuesday, joined other government leaders in the traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Kremlin walls.

But President Boris Yeltsin, the armed forces commander-in-chief, stayed away.

Vice-President Alexander Rutskoy, asked the reason, told reporters: "The president is on holiday, he also has the right to rest."

Mr. Yeltsin, 62, who is en-

gaged in a power struggle with the Russian parliament, moved to a villa just outside Moscow last Monday for a 12-day winter break. But he broke his holiday Thursday for talks with parliament Chairman Ruslan Khasbulatov.

Feb. 23, originally marking the founding of the Soviet army in 1918, is the biggest festival of the military year.

Traditionally Soviet leaders appeared at the wreath-laying, on the tomb of the unknown soldier. Mr. Yeltsin did so last year.

In his television interview, Mr. Grachev discussed a range of military themes, including corruption in the armed forces.

He said 3,000 officers, including two regional commanders, had been disciplined for corruption and 46 generals and other officers were facing prosecution.

Despite this, Mr. Grachev said the armed forces were under control and were the only well-organised and reliable force in society.

But he denounced a group of officers who attended a meeting of pro-Communists and hardline nationalists at the weekend in uniform and called for the defence minister's resignation.

"They will use any means from crude lies, provocative calls for the formation of underground committees, to holding political shows," he said.

"The command will not permit any split in military ranks or servicemen to take part in political experiments and battles," Mr. Grachev said. "The military want, above all, stability."

The defence minister said military reform was proceeding, though with difficulty.

Asked about the Russian troops based in Abkhazia, a breakaway province of Georgia, Mr. Grachev said they had to stay there to protect Russia's strategic interests.

"Otherwise we will lose the Black Sea," he said.

Former Soviet Defence Minister Dmitry Yazov, awaiting trial for his part in an August 1991 abortive coup, lamented the break-up of the Soviet Union and loss of its army in an interview with the former Communist Party daily Pravda.

"I assume that the break up of the Soviet army and state was carried out in the interests of NATO and of those blocs which are under the wing of the U.S.A.," he said.

Experts: States should divert defence funds to U.N. peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The United States and other countries that are delinquent in paying their U.N. dues ought to be charged interest on the late payments, a blue ribbon panel of fiscal experts has declared.

In addition, the cost of U.N. peacekeeping will rise sharply as the world body faces new crises, the analysis for the Ford Foundation predicted Monday.

Deployment of peacekeepers has mushroomed from 15,000 troops two years ago to nearly 55,000 today. Peacekeeping cost the U.N. system about \$1.4 billion in 1992, the report notes — more than ever before, but still a

bargain. Since U.N. peacekeeping contributes to the security of individual nations, governments should divert some of their defence funds into the U.N.'s peacekeeping budget, the experts said.

The average country now contributes only about \$1.40 to peacekeeping for every \$1,000 it spends on its own military budget.

"You're not talking about overwhelming amounts here" for peacekeeping, humanitarian aid or the regular U.N. budget, said Paul Volcker, co-chairman of the report and former chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank.

"Look around the world. We look to the U.N. to do it, whether you're talking about Yugoslavia, Somalia, Cambodia, or many other places," Mr. Volcker told the Associated Press Monday.

"I feel optimistic" that such reforms are possible, Mr. Volcker said. "It seems to me that the need is very apparent. The U.N. is called on almost every month to do something new that it alone is almost uniquely able to do."

"It's a lot cheaper for the U.N. to do it than to have the U.S. government do it," he added.

Mr. Volcker presented the Ford Foundation report on U.N. fiscal reforms to Secretary-

Roh urges S. Koreans to tighten belts

SEOUL (R) — South Korea's outgoing President Roh Tae-Woo urged the nation Tuesday to rally behind the new government with their belts tightened and sleeves rolled up.

In his final news conference as head of state, Mr. Roh said the nation should "tighten its task of boosting economy and achieving reunification with Communist North Korea."

"Let us tighten our belts and roll up our sleeves more," Mr. Roh said.

"(I hope) President-Elect Kim Young-Sam will successfully carry out reforms in this safe environment," Mr. Kim takes office Thursday.

Two days before leaving the presidential Blue House to become an ordinary citizen, Mr. Roh said he believed he had succeeded in his task of making the nation democratic.

"(The nation) has had to pay a high price and went through a lot of suffering to achieve a new history of democracy," he said.

He expressed his deepest sympathy for students and riot police, long-time adversaries in

pro-democracy campaigns, who were victims of the painful move from military-backed rule.

The worst and largest anti-government protests since 1987 erupted in April 1991 with the death of a college student who was beaten to death by riot police.

Nine people committed suicide as a protest against the police brutality, prompting Mr. Roh to replace his prime minister and reshuffle his cabinet.

Mr. Roh said the nation's goals were now to achieve North-South reunification and take an economic leap to greater prosperity.

"If the nation makes an effort for reunification, then I firmly believe we can achieve a breakthrough," Mr. Roh said.

Mr. Roh took office in 1988 for a single five-year term in the full flush of South Korea's hopes for democracy.

Mr. Roh has been praised for political and diplomatic acumen but has been criticised for his failure in helping the ailing economy.

He said South Korea had passed an important threshold to

wards joining other advanced nations, although the economy had suffered while he strove to achieve democracy.

"Our economy had to pay a price for our nation's democracy. We underwent harsh labour-management disputes, and in a short span of time, wages went up while international competitiveness fell," Mr. Roh told reporters.

"But despite all the difficulties facing the nation, our economy has advanced."

He said during the past five years, per capita annual income doubled to \$6,700 from \$3,100.

Meanwhile, South Korea's ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) spokesman said the party will apologise for a smear campaign depicting defeated opposition presidential candidate Kim Dae-Jung as a Communist sympathiser.

The main opposition Democratic Party (DP), formerly led by Kim Dae-Jung, had threatened to boycott Thursday's inauguration of his rival candidate Kim Young-Sam as president unless the apology was made.

Hospital operates on lung patient's liver in error

TOKYO (R) — A man with a diseased lung awoke from surgery to hear that doctors had removed part of his healthy liver by mistake, a Japanese hospital spokesman said. The error occurred after two patients due for different operations at the time were wheeled into the wrong theatres, said the spokesman for Kumamoto Municipal Hospital in southwest Japan. One surgeon had already removed part of the lung patient's liver when he realised there was nothing wrong with it. He quickly notified his colleague in the adjoining theatre who had already opened his liver patient's chest but not yet begun work on the lung. The two patients later underwent the correct operations and were now out of hospital, the spokesman said.

The mix-up, which occurred last November, was due to the doctors' failure to check the identities of their patients before taking up their scalpels, he added. "We have apologised, and are now discussing compensation with the patients and their families."

Japan's crown prince turns 33, in love at last

TOKYO (R) — Japan's love-struck Crown Prince Naruhito turned 33 Tuesday and disclosed that he used to sneak out of the palace in a curtained van to woo his future bride. The prince also made clear that he had no regrets at ringing down the curtain in his bachelor lifestyle to marry 29-year-old former diplomat Masako Owada. The wedding is expected in June. "I've had a very fulfilling, happy and wo: while life as a bachelor," the future emperor said in a televised news conference broadcast Tuesday. "I've done almost everything that I wanted to do." He used a mountain-climbing metaphor to describe his approaching marriage to Ms. Owada, the culmination of years of increasingly desperate searching for a royal bride. "I have just reached a peak in my life," he told reporters. "I would like to climb the next peak as a couple."

Chinese films share Golden Bear at Berlin Festival

BERLIN (R) — China and Taiwan won Golden Bear Awards for best picture at the Berlin Film Festival — only the second time in its 43-year history that two films have shared the top honour, organisers said. The award to The Wedding Banquet, a comedy from Taiwan about a gay businessman living with his boyfriend in New York, had been expected. But the 11-member international jury surprised film critics by awarding a second Golden Bear to another Chinese-language film, The Women From The Lake Of Scattered Souls from China. "I have the impression this was a political decision," said Juergen Gottschick, deputy editor of the left-wing Berlin daily Tageszeitung. "It appears to be an appeal to reunify China — and this coming from Berlin of all places." Twenty-five films were competing for Golden and Silver Bear Awards. A total of 320 feature films, short films, documentaries and children's films from 50 countries were screened during the 12-day festival. Hollywood films received two of the five Silver Bear prizes awarded — Michelle Pfeiffer as best actress for her role in Love Field and Denzel Washington as best actor in Malcolm X. Silver Bear Awards were also won by Andrew Birken as best director for the German-British-French production of The Centaur Garden, by the French film Arizona Dream, and by the Georgian film, Udznartsa mse (The Son Of The Wakeful).

American youth gives \$1,000 to help cut deficit

SEATTLE (R) — A teenage boy donated \$1,000 from his earnings to the U.S. government to help cut its huge deficit, prompting President Bill Clinton to thank him Monday for the "remarkable gesture." Larry Vilella, 14, of Fargo, North Dakota, donated the money from a tree and shrub sprinkling business he runs, he asked that some of the money be spent on AIDS research, education and other programmes. "I really appreciate it," Mr. Clinton told the youth during a telephone call while en route to Seattle aboard air force one. "Citizens are not in the habit of sending money." He told reporters it was "a remarkable gesture by the young man."

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Zaire troops mount shooting spree

KINSHASA (R) — Elite troops went on a revenge shooting spree after a comrade was butchered by angry residents in Zaire's tense capital, witnesses said Tuesday. Panic broke out Monday night when shooting erupted in the business centre of Kinshasa and in the outlying suburb of Kingasani. Witnesses said members of President Mobutu Sese Seko's feared Special Presidential Division (DSP) went on a revenge raid in Kingasani after residents backed a guardsmen to death with machetes. The residents were enraged by the death of a local man who they believed was killed by soldiers. Witnesses said at least five people were killed. No official confirmation was immediately available.

Observers discuss Angolan war

LISBON (R) — Representatives of Portugal, Russia and the United States, observers of Angola's 1991 peace accord, met in Lisbon Tuesday to discuss ways of ending renewed civil war in the former Portuguese colony. "We think it's not too late for peace. We think we can still bring it about," said Herman Cohen, representative for U.S. deputy secretary of state, on arriving for the meeting. The three countries were expected to adopt common positions to be taken at peace talks between the Angolan government and the rebel movement UNITA, scheduled for Friday in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. United Nations officials in the Angolan capital Luanda announced the planned talks Monday.

Museum may hold key to Czar's mystery

TOKYO (R) — A blood-stained handkerchief and sword that have lain in a Japanese museum for more than a century may help solve the mystery surrounding bones believed to be those of Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II. Russian scientists trying to establish the true identity of the bones unearthed at a site east of Moscow in 1989 have asked the Biwa Lake Cultural Centre in western Japan for permission to examine the artefacts, a museum spokesman said Tuesday. Visiting Japan as crown prince in 1891, Czar Nicholas was attacked by a demented policeman, who hit him over the head with a sword. Although he survived the assassination attempt near the ancient Japanese capital Kyoto, he carried the scar for the rest of his life. Japanese authorities preserved the policeman's sabre and a handkerchief used to staunch the bleeding from Czar Nicholas's head in a local museum as a memorial to the so-called "Otsu incident" there they have remained. The Russian scientists now want to conduct forensic tests on the handkerchief, sabre and other items scattered with the future tsar's blood to establish whether the DNA — the blueprint of proteins unique to each individual — matches that of the unearthed bones.

Amato to seek parliamentary vote

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister Giuliano Amato said Tuesday he would ask parliament to vote to express its support for a recent cabinet reshuffle. Mr. Amato said in a statement the vote, expected to be taken at the end of a parliamentary debate later this week, was not strictly speaking a confidence vote. But he said "the country was sliding into a confusing situation of political uncertainty", and added he would seek parliamentary approval for his four-party coalition.

Jury picked in U.S. civil rights case

LOS ANGELES (R) — A 12-member federal jury was sworn in Monday to try four white police officers accused of violating black motorist Rodney King's civil rights in a racially charged saga that has already wrought the worst urban riots in the United States this century. The jury, selected after a week of questioning by lawyers, consists of nine whites, two blacks and one Hispanic.

U.S. District Judge John Davies said three alternate jurors, needed in case any of the regular jurors fall sick or are otherwise incapacitated, will be selected Tuesday. Opening arguments in the long-awaited trial will start Wednesday.

Deputy head of CIS TV resigns

MOSCOW (AP) — The deputy head of Commonwealth Television submitted his resignation Monday, accusing the state-run company of political bias in favour of President Boris Yeltsin. Igor Malashenko said he wanted to quit because the Ostankino TV Company was under the control of "one political group" Democratic Russia, a pro-reform movement that backed Mr. Yeltsin's presidential campaign and has close ties to his administration. The resignation, however, was not immediately accepted by Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Among the leaders of Democratic Russia are Mr. Malashenko's boss, Ostankino Director Vyacheslav Bragin, and former Yeltsin aide Mikhail Poltoranin, now head of the Federal Information Centre, which oversees all state-run media.

Indian state minister toppled

NEW DELHI (R) — The chief minister of India's western state of Maharashtra, widely criticised over his handling of Hindu-Muslim rioting in Bombay last month, has resigned, Indian news agencies said. Sudhakarrao Naik, the top elected official in Maharashtra, told reporters after submitting his resignation to Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao: "The prime minister asked for it and I gave it." The Press Trust of India (PTI) said Mr. Naik's resignation ended 10 days of political crisis in Maharashtra, of which Bombay is the state capital. Mr. Naik touched off an open revolt in the ruling state Congress Party by firing six ministers in his cabinet.

China denies ruling out Hong Kong talks

HONG KONG (R) — China's top official for Hong Kong has denied reports that he ruled out reopening negotiations with Britain over the colony's future, a Peking-controlled newspaper reported Tuesday. But Governor Chris Patten refused to say whether legislation based on his democratic reform proposals would be delayed to allow negotiations with Peking to resume, promising only that he would speak on the issue Wednesday. In the past 10 days Hong Kong has been reduced to bewilderment over whether months of bitter Sino-British deadlock is about to be broken. Both sides have hinted that talks could resume but no confirmation has materialised.

China asked to probe attack on reporter

PEKING (R) — Peking-based foreign correspondents called Tuesday for an investigation into an attack on a U.S. reporter in Peking's Tiananmen Square in which he was badly hurt. ABC news correspondent Todd Carrel was among several foreign journalists beaten and or detained last June 3 while covering the anniversary of the 1989 military crackdown on the student-led pro-democracy movement in Peking Tiananmen Square. Following the incidents, the Foreign Correspondents Club of Peking sent a letter to Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin asking for an investigation. They received no reply.

Taiwan gets first native premier

TAIPEI (R) — Taiwan's provincial Governor Lien Chan was chosen Tuesday as the island's first native Taiwanese premier, marking a shift of power in the wake of democratic reforms. Parliament voted 109 to 33 to confirm Mr. Lien's nomination as premier. He was expected to name a new cabinet at a meeting of the ruling Nationalist Party's Central Standing Committee Friday. Hau Pei-tsun, 73, a conservative Nationalist leader accused by the opposition of blocking democratic reform, was forced to resign as premier early this month in a fierce battle between liberal and conservative factions of the ruling party.

A few embarrassments — but Clinton meeting to be a boost for Major

LONDON (AP) — Despite the embarrassment of his party's efforts to keep President Bill Clinton from winning the election, Prime Minister John Major heads to Washington Tuesday for a rare political boost.

Talks and dinner Wednesday, spanning six hours, will be Mr. Clinton's first meeting with a European leader since his inauguration and the first time he and the British Conservative Party leader have talked face to face.

Differences over how to end the war in Bosnia will top the agenda, as well as British reservations about Mr. Clinton's pledge to appoint an envoy to the troubled province of Northern Ireland.

For Britons, just getting Mr. Clinton into the White House reaffirms his cherished "special relationship" with the United States, even if most Americans seem oblivious to its existence.

With Mr. Major's popularity slumping in a nation dispirited by three years of recession and rising crime, the prospect of red-carpet treatment in Washington is reassuring.

But among commentators there was blunt acknowledgement that the meeting means a lot more to Mr. Major than to Mr. Clinton.

Peter Riddell, political editor of the Times of London, said the

relationship might best be described as Britain being the "junior branch of a great family watching nervously for favour and friendship from the, at times, unpredictable head of the senior branch."

The meeting may be strained, however, since two managers of Mr. Major's 1992 reelection campaign went to Washington last September to tell the Republicans how to defeat Mr. Clinton, a challenger from the left.

Mr. Major's aides say the trip was sanctioned by Conservative Party Chairman Sir Norman Fowler, who didn't tell Mr. Major.

Another embarrassment for Mr. Major was a brawl by British bureaucrats through records to find out whether Mr. Clinton had applied for British citizenship to escape the Vietnam draft while a student at Oxford. He hadn't.

British officials said they were responding to inquiries from reporters.

The Labour Party, bitter at what it regards as partisan support for Margaret Thatcher by President Ronald Reagan, says Mr. Major should have ordered an inquiry into the Clinton investigation.

"The way the Conservative government shrugged this off as if it was of no importance was an unbelievable abuse of power," said Labour deputy leader Margaret Beckett.

British officials hope the two politicians of the same generation get to know each other and focus on foreign policy issues.

But even there, potholes loom. British officials say Mr. Clinton has backed off initial signs of being prepared to arm Bosnian Muslims, enforce a no-fly-zone and possibly dispatch American ground troops. And they are not keen on the prospect of U.S. air drops of humanitarian aid to Muslims cut off by Serbs. The Clinton administration is discussing the subject Tuesday with U.N. chief Boutros Ghali.

"It is not a way we would have thought of for delivering aid," a senior Major aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Monday.

Also, Britain's administration of Northern Ireland and the support of some U.S. groups for the outlawed Irish Republican Army remains a touchy subject.

But so far, Mr. Clinton has backed off sending a peace envoy, and Britain has not objected to reported plans to dispatch a fact-finding mission led by an Irish-American politician providing it's one with an anti-IRA record.

On trade, Mr. Clinton has talked about cutting European Community subsidies, but Mr. Major has the best chance of any EC leader to mediate that dispute.